



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-229
Friday
27 November 1992

Daily Report

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FBI/NEA-02-229

CONTENTS

27 November 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Talks, Tunis Meeting (Paris Radio Monte Carlo)	2
'Arafat Discusses Next Round of Talks (MENA)	4
Leadership Meetings in Tunis Highlighted (HART AL-SHA'B 25 Nov)	4
'New Driving Force' Thought Needed (JORDAN TIMES 25 Nov)	5
'Abd al-Rahman' Comments on Peace Talks (AL-BAY 25 Nov)	6
'Arafat' Preview Meeting With Minarwad (Jerusalem Radio)	7
Shayb: 'PLO Makes All the Decisions' (Brussels Radio)	7
Iran Said Supporting New 'Rejectionist' Front (MENA)	8
Hamas Spokesman Interviewed on Current Issues (KEYHAN 11 Oct)	8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Supreme Court Refuses To Release FIS Leaders (Algiers Radio)	12
Police Arrest 6 'Terrorists' in Constantine (Algiers Radio)	12
All Kafi Appoints New Senior Officials (Algiers Radio)	12

Egypt

'Amr Musa Comments on Foreign Policy Issues (Cairo Radio)	12
Notes 'Differences' With Iran (Cairo Radio)	13
Iran Said Financing International Terror Front (MISR AL-FATAH 23 Nov)	13
Links to 'Terrorists' Named (MENA)	13
Liberal Party Leader Warns Iran (AL-AHRAR 23 Nov)	14
Media Comment on Iranian Efforts	14
'Scheme' Against Arabs Seen (Cairo Radio)	14
Efforts To Buy Arms Named (MENA)	15
Russian Ambassador on Arms Sales to Iran (MENA)	15
Writer Criticizes Syrian Statements on Iran (MAYU 23 Nov)	16
Mubarak Urges 'Full Cooperation' With Algeria (MENA)	16
Foreign Minister: Damascus Declaration 'Falsified' (AL-JUMHURIYAH 22 Nov)	16
Paper Urges Continued Participation in Peace Talks (MENA)	17
Official Denies Hamas Peddles Infiltrated Country (AL-AHRAR AL-MASRI 22 Nov)	17
Envoy Denies 'Arafat Refused Permission To Land' (MENA)	17
Islamic Group Spokesman Interviewed on Attacks (AFP)	17

Libya

Government Said Ready To Turn Over Bombing Suspects (AL-AHRAR 22 Nov)	18
Official Denies 'Saboteurs' Sent to Egypt (AL-AHRAR 23 Nov)	18

Mauritania

President Meets With OAU Secretary General [Nouakchott Radio]	19
President Receives Message From King Hassan [Rabat TV]	19
Cabinet Meets, Ratifies Several Bills [Nouakchott Radio]	19
Minister Urge Senate on Government Policy [Nouakchott Radio]	19

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Ties With Neighbors, Food Supply [Omdurman Radio]	20
RCC Delegation Returns From Ethiopia [Omdurman Radio]	21
Al-Bashir Meets Eritrean Envoys [Omdurman Radio]	21
Envoy: Egypt Not Restricting Movement of Sudanese [MENA]	21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Holds Ministerial Council Meeting 25 Nov	22
UAE Minister on Relations With Iran [WAKH]	22
Other Topics Addressed [SPA]	22

Bahrain

Petition Calls for Elected National Assembly [London AL-QUDS AL-ARABI 21-22 Nov]	23
--	----

Kuwait

Minister: Nuclear Weapons Threaten Regional Peace [KUNA]	24
Further Reaction to King Husayn Statements	24
Husayn's 'Shameful Stance' Cited [Kuwait Radio]	24
Paper Warns Against 'Pythons' [KUNA]	25
Defense Minister on GCC Security Plan [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Nov]	25

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Lithuania [WAKH]	25
--	----

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting [SPA]	25
---	----

Yemen

Arrest Warrants Issued for Suspected Bombers [London AL-HAYAH 23 Nov]	26
---	----

IRAQ

'Aziz Replies to UNSC Report [INA]	27
Tariq 'Aziz Meets UN's Butrus Ghali, Ekren [INA]	31
Statement Issued Condemning UN Embargo Extension [INA]	31
Paper Assails Embargo Extension [INA]	32
Rebels Reportedly Try To Kill Justice Minister [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	32
Regime Said To Deploy Troops in Southern Areas [Voice of Kurdistan]	32
Kurdish Military Commander Assesses Fighting [London AL-HAYAH 23 Nov]	32
Opposition Leaders Call for Expanded Conference [Voice of Iraqi People]	34
Saddam Addresses Arab Deputies' Delegation [Baghdad Radio]	34
Saudi Said Training Smugglers To Damage Economy [INA]	36
Ramadan Meets Syrian Opposition Group [INA]	36
Jordanian Ambassador Lauds 'Firm' Ties [INA]	37
Mitterrand Call To End Boycott on Israel Attacked [INA]	37
Group Leaves for Cairo Meeting of Arab Ministers [INA]	37
Defense Minister Attends 'Tactical Exercise' [INA]	37

ISRAEL

French President Mitterrand Pays 2-Day Visit	39
Arrives at Airport [Jerusalem Radio]	39
Meets With Rabin [HADASHOT 26 Nov. etc]	39
Delivers Speech at State Dinner [Jerusalem TV]	40
3 Agreements Signed [Tel Aviv Radio]	42
Scientific Relations Expanded [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Rabin Gives Mitterrand Message for Jordan [Jerusalem Radio]	43
Mitterrand Meets Pines [Jerusalem Radio]	43
Discusses Peace Process With Palestinians [Jerusalem TV]	43
Promises \$4 Million in Aid [Jerusalem Radio]	44
Rabin Notes Differences on Peace Process [Tel Aviv Radio]	44
Mitterrand Holds News Conference [Jerusalem Radio]	45
Rabin Hopes for French Aid for Peace Talks [Jerusalem Radio]	46
Rabin Reportedly To Seek Talks With PLO [HADASHOT 26 Nov]	47
Shoval on Contacts With Clinton [Jerusalem Radio]	47
Rabinovich Appointed Envoy to U.S. [Jerusalem Radio]	47
IDF Thinning Out Troops Deployed in Lebanon [HA'ARETZ 26 Nov]	47
Officers To Be Sent to UN Peacekeeping Forces [Jerusalem Radio]	48
'Arafat Interviewed by YED'OT AHARONOT [27 Nov]	48

LEBANON

Buways: 29 Nov Foreign Ministers Meeting Postponed [VOL]	51
Buways: Israeli Peace Treaty 'Unacceptable' [VOL]	51
Buways Meets UN Envoy, Discusses Role in Talks [RFL]	51
Al-Hirawi, Birri, al-Hariri Hold Talks in Syria	51
Leaders Go To Damascus 26 Nov [VOL]	51
Al-Hirawi, Birri Return [Beirut Radio]	51
Al-Hariri Returns to Beirut [RFL]	51
Birri Comments on Meetings [RFL]	51
Statement Issued on Summit Talks [Beirut Radio]	52
Troops, U.S., Hizballah Discussed [VOL]	52
Phalangist Leader: Conditions for Syrian Redeployment Met [VOL]	52
Fatah Official Wounded in Assassination Attempt [VOL]	53
Hizballah Reacts to Israeli Assassination Attempt	53
Tehran TV Interviews Nasrallah	53
Nasrallah Gives News Conference [Voice of the Oppressed]	53
Hizballah Deputy Reacts [Voice of the Oppressed]	53

SYRIA

Al-Assad Holds Talks With Lebanese Leaders [Damascus TV]	56
Al-Hariri Prison Meeting [Damascus Radio]	56
Khaddam Receives Iranian Foreign Ministry Official [Damascus Radio]	56

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Forces Clash in Jalal on Saraj [Radio Message of Freedom]	57
Leadership Council Clears, Discusses Dress Code [Kabul Radio]	57
Foreign Minister Leaves for Islamabad Conference [Kabul Radio]	57

India

Court Empowers Government on Ayudhya Enforcement [Delhi Radio]	57
Rao Talks With Envoys of 5 Muslim Countries [INDIAN EXPRESS 18 Nov]	58
Paper Previews Possible Clinton Policy [PATRIOT 9 Nov]	58
First Israeli Ambassador Presents Credentials [Delhi Radio]	59

Pers To Visit, Rao Invited To Visit Pakistan	[Delhi Radio]	59
Publication's Pakistani Defense Survey Criticized	[INDIAN EXPRESS 21 Nov]	59
Commentary Views Political Upheaval in Pakistan	[Delhi International]	60
Bangladesh 'Illegal Migrants' To Be Returned	[Delhi Radio]	61
Parliament Passes SAARC Anti-Terrorism Bill	[Delhi Radio]	61
Inflation Rate Decreases to Less Than 9 Percent	[Delhi Radio]	61

Iran

Velayati Visit to Croatia Reported		61
Arrives in Zagreb	[IRNA]	61
Criticizes West on Bosnia	[IRNA]	62
Returns, Comments on Telfin	[Tehran Radio]	62
Embassy To Be Opened in Georgia	[IRNA]	63
Baharini, Saudi Envoy Discuss Jeddah Telfin	[Tehran Radio]	63
OPEC Urged To Ban Saudi Oil Output Increase	[IRNA]	63
GCC Said To Show Way to Compromise With Qatar	[Tehran Radio]	64
UN Report on Human Rights in Iran Criticized	[IRNA]	64
Editorial Views Ashraf Summit on North Iran	[JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI 15 Nov]	65
Romanian Envoy Discusses Trade, Ties With Iran	[IRNA]	66
Habibzadeh-Rafsanjani Addresses Tehran Bani Rally	[Tehran TV]	67
Khamene'i Discusses Islamic Guidance, Press	[Tehran TV]	67

Pakistan

Reaction to Opposition Activities Noted		68
Government 'Ready for Dialogue'	[THE NEWS 25 Nov]	68
Bhutto Holds News Conference	[THE NATION 25 Nov]	68
Sharif Ben Media 'Conspiracy'	[Islamabad TV]	70
Islamabad Lifts Ban on Bhutto	[Islamabad TV]	71
Northwest Lifts Ban on Bhutto	[Islamabad Radio]	71
Bhutto Not To Enter Islamabad	[THE MUSLIM 27 Nov]	71
Al-Qaddafi's Message Criticized	[AFP]	71
Minister Rules Out Possibility War With India	[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 27 Nov]	72
Issue of Pakistani Bodies in India Raised at UN		72
Spokesman Asks India for Bodies	[Islamabad Radio]	72
Envoy Urges UN to Ask India for Bodies	[Islamabad Radio]	72
Need for Caution on U.S. Concerns Suggested	[THE NATION 26 Nov]	72
Minister: Railway Planned With Uzbekistan, Iran	[Islamabad Radio]	73

Sri Lanka

Parties Discuss Peaceful Solution to Fighting		73
'Radical' Reforms Suggested	[AFP]	73
Opposition Leader Denies Deal Made	[AFP]	74

Libya

"Libya is ready to hand over the suspects in the bombing of the two planes." The Libyan Government sent a letter to that effect to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali through the head of the Libyan mission at the United Nations, according to the Cairo daily AL-AHRAM.

Syria-Lebanon

President Hafiz al-Asad received Ilyas al-Hirawi, the president of Lebanon; Nabih Birri, the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; and Rafiq al-Hariri, the Lebanese prime minister on 26 November, Damascus TV reports. According to Damascus radio, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri "praised the outcome" of the meeting, saying: "The results reflected the extent of brotherly fruitful cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries on all levels." The summit "dealt with regional, local, and bilateral issues, as well as international affairs affecting the situation in the Arab world, in general, and south Lebanon, in particular," the Voice of Lebanon reported.

Lebanon

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced "the postponement" of the meeting of Arab foreign ministers involved in the peace talks which he had called to convene in Beirut on 29 November, the Voice of Lebanon reported. According to the report, the meeting was postponed "because not all the foreign ministers agreed on the date."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Talks, Tunis Meeting

JN2611205992 *Pure Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
1937 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Muhammad Karayshan in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Karayshan] Welcome, Mr. President Yasir 'Arafat, to the airwaves of Radio Monte Carlo. Our first question, Mr. President: We want to know the real Palestinian stance that you have come up with after the meetings of the Palestinian leadership over the past two days in Tunis.

[Arafat] The truth is that these meetings were the most important and serious meetings the Palestinian leadership has had so far. The Palestinian leadership met with the negotiating team led by brother Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to evaluate the talks of last year, especially since it was decided earlier that the negotiations would not last more than one year.

As is well known, results on the Palestinian track so far are almost nothing. As you are aware, Shamir, during his election campaign, announced that he was trying to waste time so that negotiations would last for 10 years. Rabin came to complete the same policy, the policy of elusiveness, the iron-fist policy, the policy of attacks and stepped-up crimes against the Palestinian people, against our women and children, against our Muslim and Christian holy places. Rabin is also stalling on the Palestinian track with the aim of eliminating the Palestinian cause and of normalizing Arab-Israeli relations at the expense of the Palestinian cause. The same theory was adopted by all Israeli politicians, including Shamir, Sharon, and Begin, who proceed from the Zionist theory that a land without a people is for a people without a homeland, which was first upheld in 1997 at the Zionist conference in Basel. Regrettably, this theory has not changed. Regrettably, due to the U.S. sponsor's preoccupation with elections, Rabin capitalized on the U.S. President's need of Jewish votes in the United States. Then he obtained \$10 billion in loan guarantees, as well as a pledge to maintain the Israeli military edge in the region and make Israel an arsenal of U.S. weapons in the Middle East. This increased Rabin's extremism and his insistence on his arrogant policy, the policy which was drawn up by him and by Shamir before him against the Palestinian people, the Palestinian cause, and Muslim and Christian holy places in Palestine.

We are now facing formidable settlement expansion. Rabin came to begin a new plan including 11,000 housing units in the West Bank and Gaza and 14,000 housing units in Jerusalem as part of a comprehensive scheme to divide up the Palestinian land. At the negotiating table, Rabin has so far not given the Palestinian people more than administrative rule and elections to

elect second or third class employees to be under the supervision of an Israeli military ruler.

So far, Rabin has not acknowledged that Resolution 242 applies to the Palestinian land, especially the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem. Jerusalem in particular is a basic point, and I point to the seriousness of this issue. Rabin is still repeating the argument of his Likud predecessor that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Greater Israel. I say, is there any Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, or Christian who accepts this argument? Therefore, we address Arabs, Muslims, and Christians and tell them: Your Jerusalem is in danger; your Jerusalem is in danger. God be my witness that I have done my duty and delivered the message. This is an appeal on behalf of the Palestinian people to save the Islamic and Christian holy places in the land that witnessed the nocturnal journey of Prophet Muhammad and was the cradle of Jesus Christ, may peace be upon him.

[Karayshan] Mr. President, in light of what you have just said regarding the Israeli policies and the continuation of the same Israeli line, what is the current level of Arab coordination, and what do you expect from it?

[Arafat] We are trying to establish a cohesive Arab state of affairs, particularly through the meetings of the co-sponsors' foreign ministers. We also seek to expand this meeting by adding representatives of the Gulf and Arab Maghreb states and all the participants in the peace talks, whether in the bilateral or the multilateral talks. What was agreed upon in these meetings was a comprehensive solution. This does not mean that we are against the restoration of any part of the occupied Arab territories; however, this should not take place at the expense of the Palestinian side.

[Karayshan] Mr. President, the peace process is revolving in a vicious circle, especially during the transitional stage between Bush and Clinton. However, this stage could also continue until early in Clinton's term.

[Arafat] Yes, this is clear. We should take into consideration that we have entered the stage of no decision in the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration needs a long time until it comprehends this process. It is true that it will allow this process to continue, but with the same carelessness, and it will not interfere to correct its course and to force the Israeli side to abide by the letters of invitation and assurances and by President Bush's initiative of the land for peace formula, and implement Resolutions 242 and 338, which mean withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, most important of which is holy Jerusalem; the restoration of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people; and security for all sides. Regrettably, the Israeli negotiator still says "the Palestinians," and not "the Palestinian people," at a time when Pines says "the Palestinian people" at the United Nations, the head of the Israeli side in the Palestinian track says "Palestinians," and rejects the application of Resolution 242 on the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem. The most serious

crime is, as I said, the exclusion of Jerusalem. What is required from the Palestinians in order to achieve progress in their tracks is to relinquish their holy places, rights, and land. No Palestinian can accept this. They will never find a Palestinian who would relinquish his land, rights, or holy places.

[Kareyshan] Mr. President, you have decided to send a delegation to Washington and another to Moscow. Based on this, do you believe that there is a certain negligence by the cosponsors of the talks regarding the process of the talks?

[Arafat] Actually, we have been promised that the length of negotiations would not exceed one year, and now, 13 months have passed, but the cosponsors did not interfere to correct the Israeli stand at the Palestinian-Israeli talks. On the contrary, they have stood watching it violating human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories every day against the Palestinian people, the Palestinian children, our men and women, and against our sanctities. In addition to this, the Israeli side is not committed to the bases of the peace process, namely, the Bush initiative and Resolution 242 and 338. Regrettably, this is the situation. This is why we have the right to call on the cosponsors [words indistinct] where is their commitment? If this is not possible, then we should go back to the United Nations, since it is clear that the Madrid conference, in its present formula, has not succeeded, and has failed on the Palestinian track. Therefore, it is our right to go back to the United Nations and the Security Council to ask for urgent international protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with Resolutions 603, 607, 608, 681, and 726. These are resolutions binding to us all unless there is a double standard in international legitimacy: one against the Arabs and the Palestinians, and another in favor of Israel.

[Kareyshan] Mr. President, in addition to what the Israeli delegation offered, there were recent Israeli statements by Shim'on Peres in Cairo and by Yitzhak Rabin on what he called joint sovereignty. What do you have to say about these recent Israeli statements?

[Arafat] Joint sovereignty is rejected. He should know that according to the invitation and letter of assurances there is the authority of the interim self-government which we say should be one year while they say it should be two years. After this, we begin the final stage, the stage of independence about which our Palestine National Council says will be on the way to the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation in accordance with the free and voluntary decision of the two fraternal people.

I would like to tell them this, I would like to say this to the world at large: Either the peace will be a Palestinian peace or not at all. There will be no peace at the expense of Palestinian rights, the Palestinian people, and the holy places on the land of Palestine. If there is no just and

comprehensive peace, the region will witness unprecedented confusion. Let all keep in mind that what is taking place in Yugoslavia might occur in our region, here in the Middle East.

All know that there are attempts to interfere in the region by more than one party, other than the Arab parties. This also poses a threat to all the tracks.

[Kareyshan] Mr. President, do you believe that Europe, France, and the other countries still have a role to play in the current peace process after the maneuvering has become clear?

[Arafat] They have such a right because Europe, like us, has been told the negotiations will last one year. They told Europe: Give us a peace opportunity. One year has passed. Europe should move with us now to bring the issue back to its sound and real course and to tackle together other forms for establishing peace in the region. As for this paralyzed form, it has been obstructed by a recent decision Rabin made. He has thus disavowed all the promises he made to the Israeli voters during the election campaign. He used to blame Shamir for his policy. Rabin should remember that the Israeli citizens and the Israeli people have voted for peace, against expansion and against Shamir's policy, and for a real peace. Otherwise, the alternative to peace will be chaos that could prevail over the entire region, and no one will be spared.

[Kareyshan] Mr. President, does this mean that the hopes fostered by Rabin's assumption of power last June and the possibility...

[Arafat, interrupting] I was not of those who had pinned hopes on Rabin, and I was not taken in by him for one moment. I would like to remind you of one of Rabin's stands, which I will never forget. I see him stepping down from the plane with Shamir, volunteering—because at the time he was not in the government, in Begin's government—to participate with Shamir in bringing Beirut and in killing Palestinian and Lebanese children. How can we forget this image of Rabin? On this basis, he and Shamir assumed the responsibility for the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

[Kareyshan] Our last question, Mr. President: Will you visit Cairo soon as a follow up to your last visit?

[Arafat] Of course. My brother, Abu-Maron [Mahmoud Abbas], paid a quick visit to Cairo to complete the discussion of some points with our brothers in Egypt. We do not view our brothers in Egypt as observers but as partners in all the peace issues and also in the entire Palestinian cause. The Egyptian people will not abandon the Palestinian people and will not abandon the Palestinian cause.

[Kareyshan] Thank you very much, Mr. Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

[Arafat] We shall proceed together toward victory. God willing, to pray in Jerusalem, the place from which

Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and mercy be upon him, ascended to Heaven, and the cradle where Christ, peace be upon him, was born.

'Arafat Discusses Next Round of Talks

NC271114802 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1014 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tunis, 27 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasser 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian leadership, in its recent expanded meeting, postponed making a decision on participation in the eighth round of bilateral peace negotiations in Washington. The reason, he added, is that no progress has been made in the negotiations—especially along the Palestinian-Israeli track—for an entire year following the launching of the process.

He said the participants in the meeting made a number of decisions related to Palestinian moves on Arab, Islamic, and international levels. He explained that the Palestinians will demand that the Security Council implement its resolutions, especially Resolution 726, which provides for dispatching international observers to the occupied Palestinian territories to protect the Palestinian people from growing Israeli violence and oppression.

'Arafat's remarks came in a speech he delivered during a meeting with officials in charge of Palestinian popular organizations.

He said the PLO sent messages to the Middle East peace conference organizers—the United States and Russia—demanding that the principles on which the Madrid peace conference was launched be put into practice, especially since 13 months have passed without any progress thanks to Israel's intransigence and refusal to abide by the terms of the peace process or to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. This, he said, led to an impasse in the bilateral peace process.

'Arafat said the Palestinian leadership received a message from the United States in reply to the recent message, which was conveyed to the Americans by Fayyad al-Husseini, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian leadership also sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand through the Palestinian delegation that met last year in Jerusalem.

In his speech, 'Arafat criticized Israel for "trying to divide the unity of the Palestinian people and divide its internal Palestinian affairs by providing money to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to use to fight the other Palestinian groups, especially the PLO."

At the end of his speech, 'Arafat said that as part of the Palestinian political activity, the PLO will raise the issue of Jerusalem, the peace negotiations, and the impasse

they reached because of Israel's obstinacy at the forthcoming Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) ministerial meeting in Jeddah—a meeting held to discuss developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said the question of Jerusalem is a permanent topic on the agenda of all ICO meetings.

Leadership Meetings in Tunis Highlighted

JN2511144192 Amman SAWT AL-SHAB
in Arabic 25 Nov 92 p 14

[By Riyad Mansour]

[Text] An atmosphere of tension and restlessness prevailed during the Palestinian leadership's recent three-day meeting in Tunis. During their meeting, which concluded the day before yesterday, the conferees were split into two teams and two opinions.

Commented by telephone in Tunis, a ranking Palestinian official supplied SAWT AL-SHAB with details of the Palestinian leadership's meetings. He said differences in opinion emerged right from the beginning, when results of the seventh round of negotiations were discussed. He added that the majority of Palestinian leaders held that the negotiations were deadlocked and should be discussed by the PLO-affiliated factions within the larger national framework.

He said the atmosphere of the meetings did not provide serious opportunities for a comprehensive national dialogue among the various PLO factions, particularly those participating in the peace process. He said several Fatah Central Committee members expressed readiness to engage in a comprehensive reassessment of the negotiations. Badar al-Baghdadi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, formerly the Communist Party, adopted an offensive stand and stressed that the negotiations had reached an impasse.

The ranking Palestinian official also stressed that several leaders raised the issue of an overall assessment within the framework of a new call for another Madrid conference, in spite of the fact that Israel has rejected such a request. He said proposals from the other party, represented by members of the committee in charge of following up on the negotiations, did not agree that the negotiations were deadlocked. This committee comprised Mahmud 'Athila, PLO Executive Committee member; Nabil Sha'ith, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasser 'Arafat; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli negotiations; Fayyad al-Husseini, head of the delegation's steering committee; and Nabil Qassis, deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation. They waged an U.S. intervention through Egypt to bridge the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian positions. He pointed out that those supporting this trend call for expanding the channels of contact with the Egyptian Government and upgrading PLO-Egyptian coordination.

The high-ranking Palestinian official stressed that the views of president Yasir 'Arafat and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi were closer to the camp which said negotiations were deadlocked and that this requires a large-scale national dialogue within the PLO framework.

The ranking Palestinian official said that president 'Arafat used to confront, from time to time, the interpolations by the party which wagers on the continuity of the peace process and on the possibility of attaining any progress within its framework.

The Palestinian official attributed the PLO leadership's failure to adopt a definitive stand on participation in the eighth round of talks to the great disparity in opinions, affirming that all assessments affirm that the PLO leadership will participate in the upcoming round.

He said: Basically, the Palestinians are for participation so that their nonparticipation would not be a pressuring factor on other Arab parties to have them find a way out of the impasse the negotiations have reached, or a factor of support for the position of those calling for reconvening the Madrid conference.

Regarding the popular conference called for by the PLO and to which it had invited 180 figures representing municipalities and chambers of commerce in the occupied territories, the Palestinian official said this topic was not seriously or thoroughly discussed during the PLO leadership meeting. He explained that participants in the meeting have not yet agreed on defining its objective while others hesitate to take the issue any further, particularly after the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) under Nayif Hawatmah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) under George Habbash, announced that they would boycott the meeting.

He said that certain parties believe that having representatives of the chambers of commerce and municipalities become involved in the representational aspect can be viewed as an attempt to distance themselves from the proposed legislative council elections and to move closer to the U.S. ideas.

The Palestinian leader affirmed that president 'Arafat has been mulling over the idea of the popular conference. He explained that 'Arafat's approach to this idea is different from that of the others. 'Arafat wants to extricate himself from what he had proposed at the recent PLO Central Council meetings by complementing the Palestine National Council (PNC) members with 180 figures from the occupied territories.

The Palestinian official said that president 'Arafat wants the invitation to representatives of the chambers of commerce and professional unions to be a way out and a compromise solution without having to announce the names of PNC members from the occupied territories, particularly since the announcement of these names is opposed by several members of the negotiating team.

On the question of why a final statement was not issued at the end of the meetings, the Palestinian official said that this was due to the fact that there is nothing new to tell the Palestinians, explaining that the PLO was content to announce that two delegations will visit Washington and Moscow but did not mention that a third delegation had left for Egypt.

The Palestinian official said that the absence of the DFLP under Hawatmah, George Habbash's PFLP, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front led by Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, and the Palestine Liberation Front under Abu-Nidal al-Ashgar deprived the meetings of an important majority of PLO political forces.

The Palestinian official concluded by saying that the absence of the four factions, particularly the DFLP and the PFLP, had negatively affected the meetings and made many speakers focus on the state of affairs within the PLO, particularly on the question of national unity.

'New Driving Force' Thought Needed

JN2511080492 Amman JORDAN TIMES
in English 23 Nov 92 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian leadership emerged from a three-day meeting in Tunis this week convinced of the need for a new driving force to inject life into the stalemated Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinian peace negotiators have therefore agreed to pursue a "programme of intense activity" with the purpose of generating regional and international support for the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

"Without a new driving force," said PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najajab, "the peace talks will become a routine process from which only Israel will benefit."

In an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday [24 November], Mr. al-Najajab said there was a consensus among participants in the Tunis meeting that the talks with Israel were not heading in the direction agreed to upon the launching of the peace talks in Madrid last year.

Mr. al-Najajab said the principles outlined [in] letters of invitations to the talks as well as the letter of assurances which identified U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for the negotiations do not seem to be guiding the talks 13 months after they were launched.

Although the next round of talks was set for Dec. 7 in Washington, Mr. al-Najajab insisted that whether the Palestinians attend the next round of the talks or was not the most pressing issue now. [sentence as published] "The issue is how to create a driving force to give the negotiations the necessary push."

The PLO official said that efforts to gather support for the Palestinian-Israeli track will be directed at the co-sponsors of the talks, mainly the new U.S. administration led by President-elect Bill Clinton, Europe, the U.N. and Arab countries.

Mr. al-Najjab identified the following points as the major reasons why, according to the Palestinians, the talks went wrong. The failure of the U.S. to "live up to its word" and lack of commitment to its letter of assurances, collapse of the Soviet Union, leaving the talks under the control of one biased side (the U.S.), which has historically supported Israel.

- The absence of an active U.N. role, "although the basis of the negotiations are U.N. resolutions."
- The "weakening" of the European role in the peace process.
- Different Arab interpretations of a "comprehensive solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- Mr. al-Najjab said the Palestinian interpretation of a comprehensive solution meant a full implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, "Israeli withdrawal from all the territories it occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

Mr. al-Najjab said solving the refugee problem is also part of the Palestinian problem. He said the issue of security and borders of the countries in the area cannot be defined except in a comprehensive solution.

"This is basic, regardless of any progress made in this or that track in the negotiations," Mr. al-Najjab said.

Reports from Tunis said the Palestinians were divided on whether to participate in the next round of talks and on the conditions of participation. While some called for complete withdrawal from the talks, others demanded either delaying the next round or full participation. Observers, however, believe the Palestinians will decide to attend the Dec. 7 round.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Peace Talks

JN2511140392 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
25 Nov 92 pp 24, 31

[Trst] Amman, PETRA—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has paid tribute to the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination during the seventh round of peace talks. He affirmed the importance of continuing this coordination within the context of the efforts being made by the states and parties participating in the peace process to achieve a comprehensive, just, and durable solution that ensures the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi made these remarks to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY on his arrival in

Amman, along with some Palestinian delegates, from Tunis en route to the occupied Palestinian territories after they had taken part in the meetings of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi urged the administration of U.S. President-elect Clinton to intervene in the peace process to make Israel comply with international resolutions, which were the centerpiece of the U.S. invitation to the Madrid conference.

The chief Palestinian delegate did not rule out the possible support by the Clinton administration for the Palestinians, given that the Palestine question is an issue supported by right and justice, and that any fair-minded person is bound to firmly support the Palestinians, whose demands will be met when the resolutions of international legitimacy are implemented. He also affirmed the importance of restoring the dialogue between the United States and the PLO, given that this would advance the peace process.

'Abd-al-Shafi revealed that Palestinian endeavors are currently underway to arrange a meeting with officials of President Clinton's administration. He expressed the hope that this meeting will be held soon.

The chief Palestinian delegate described the Israeli stand during the negotiations as intransigent. However, he noted, the Palestinians will work seriously to find a way out of the impasse the negotiations have reached due to Israeli intransigence.

'Abd-al-Shafi added that the Palestinian leadership conducted a comprehensive assessment of the peace process in Tunis and decided to postpone a decision on participation in the eighth round of talks, pending the outcome of the ministerial meeting the foreign ministers of the parties concerned with the peace process will hold in Beirut on 29 November. He affirmed the Palestinians' concern for coordinating their stands with their Arab brethren.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, has said that the Palestinian leadership will meet again before the start of the eighth round of talks to decide whether or not the Palestinians will participate in this round.

In a statement to AL-RAY, the Palestinian ambassador added: The Israeli tactics of procrastination being used with the Palestinian side will prove to be useless. The holding of another round of talks, similar to the rounds previously held, has become unreasonable.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim went on to say: The Palestinian leadership will make the proper decision regarding participation in the eighth round of talks in light of the conclusions that will be reached by the Palestinian delegations which will visit the co-sponsors of the Madrid conference. The results of the contacts that will be held with the participating Arab sides will also affect the Palestinian decision in this regard.

The Palestinian ambassador indicated that the Palestinian leadership has, during its recent meeting, rejected in part and parcel the Israeli proposal, through which Israel seeks to share with the Palestinians control over territory, sovereignty, as well as legislative and judicial powers.

In a related development, it has been decided to assign Farouq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, the task of building contacts with the Arab foreign ministers to discuss with them the Israeli tactics of perversion as part of the ongoing inter-Arab coordination. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Maria, will leave for Moscow on a visit.

Fayal al-Husayni will leave Amman for occupied Jerusalem today to meet French President Francois Mitterrand in Jerusalem. Afterward, al-Husayni will leave for Washington for talks with U.S. officials to urge them to intervene and put pressure on Israel. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, will arrive in Amman today.

'Ashrawi Previews Meeting With Mitterrand

IN2611182692 Jerusalem Qol Yom 'al in Arabic
1615 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'ad Ma'addi; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ma'addi] Good evening and welcome back.

['Ashrawi] Thank you.

[Ma'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, you will meet this evening with French President Francois Mitterrand, what is the message you are going to deliver to President Mitterrand during this meeting?

['Ashrawi] It is natural for the discussions to focus on the negotiating process and the difficult situation of the talks, as well as the role of the sponsoring states and the European role, especially France's role in the peace process. The discussions will also deal with the current situation in the occupied territories.

[Ma'addi] The French president is known for stands that support Arab states and the Palestinian cause. Yesterday, he said that the peace process must continue. Can this effect the position of the Palestinian side with regard to continuing the participation in the bilateral negotiations?

['Ashrawi] Participating in the bilateral negotiations is a matter that concerns the Palestinian leadership and the PLO. So far, the decision to take part in the talks is still effective. But there are assessments and attempts to gain support and influence the Israeli stand with regard to the next round. A decision has not yet been made regarding the forthcoming round. As for France's position, as part of the European Community, France's position is less

biased toward Israel, or let us say it is more moderate, but we will not say that it is biased toward the Arab side. It is also practically obvious that France has taken steps in Israel's interest, for example, economic cooperation and exchange. But it has a less biased political stance. That is why we can talk about political developments in the peace march to correct its course and prevent Israel from continuing to exploit the unequal situation in the occupied territories in its interests or to extend political gains.

[Ma'addi] Yes, Dr. 'Ashrawi, you took part in meetings in Tunis. Have the meetings yielded a clear decision regarding the participation of the Palestinian side in future negotiations?

['Ashrawi] The Tunis meetings made a decision to study the situation and study the outcome of the negotiations, but there was no decision regarding the eighth round. The decision is to delay matters until wide-ranging diplomatic talks and contacts to gain support for the Palestinian position are held.

[Ma'addi] Yes, another thing, the Knesset will discuss a law next week to amend a law banning contacts with the PLO. What is your comment on this proposal?

['Ashrawi] I think that this law is unjust and undemocratic. The Palestinian side did not abide by this law. I think this will help the march, especially since the Israeli side can meet with PLO officials. It is also in the interest of Israeli democracy. It is necessary to amend this law. This step will help the Israeli side in the negotiations.

[Ma'addi] Yes, a final question, Dr. 'Ashrawi, when do you expect a final decision to be issued on whether or not to participate in the eighth round of bilateral talks?

['Ashrawi] I think it will not be before the beginning of next month or during the first week of December. It depends on many things, but it has to be a well-thought-out decision and based on the Palestinian side's contacts.

[Ma'addi] Thank you Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Sha'ib: 'PLO Makes All the Decisions'

LD2511174392 Brussels La Une Radio Network
in French 1600 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt from interview with Nabil Sha'ib, adviser to Yassir 'Arafat, with correspondent Jacqueline Bolaguer, in Brussels; date not given; Sha'ib in English with unrecorded French translation.—recorded]

[Text] Peace negotiations on the Middle East are not making any progress in Washington. The Palestinians consider the Israeli proposals unacceptable. The Palestinian negotiators are figures who come from the occupied territories: The West Bank and Gaza. In public,

these figures do not claim to be members of the PLO, as Israel still refuses to negotiate with the PLO of Yasir 'Arafat. In fact, the PLO leads the Palestinian negotiators. A close adviser of Yasir 'Arafat, Nabil Sha'th, acknowledges that he leads this delegation, and this is the first time that a PLO official has admitted the matter so clearly.

Jacqueline Boleau met Nabil Sha'th in Brussels. The question that is put forward is: Who makes the decisions?

[Sha'th] The PLO makes all the decisions, and Yasir 'Arafat makes all the final decisions. It is he who chooses all the negotiators, and all of them must consult him. I represent the PLO, and I am the one who leads the delegation in Washington, but I do not enter the hall where the negotiations are taking place, because the Israelis are fussy and want to know who is inside and who is outside. This must come to an end, and the negotiations would progress far more quickly if everyone were at the table.

[Boleau] Precisely, let us imagine that the Israelis agree at the end to negotiate with the PLO; would the Palestinians be able to make concessions more easily?

[Sha'th] I think that it would be easier to make decisions, and we would have more reason to hope that these decisions would be accepted by the Palestinians, because they involve their legitimate leadership.

Iran Said Supporting New 'Rejectionist' Front

NC2711083992 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0704 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Reliable Palestinian sources in Cairo have revealed that Iran intends to establish a rejectionist Palestinian front to isolate the PLO and hinder the peace negotiations and current efforts for Middle East peace.

The sources said Iran recently paid \$30 million to several Palestinian groups to foil the peace talks and form an anti-PLO front in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The sources told MENA that Iran paid the money to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The aim was to pressure the PLO and prevent the Palestinian delegation from participating in the negotiations.

The Islamic Jihad Organization has recently opened an office in Tehran, and some of its sources were cited as saying that Iran is working to "dismantle" (tafkik) the PLO.

The reliable Palestinian sources expressed astonishment at Iran's attempts to harm the Palestinian cause and the legitimate Palestinian leadership, the PLO.

While Iran is offering a lot of money to divide Palestinian ranks, the source noted, it is not providing any assistance for Palestinian institutions or municipalities in the occupied territories, for families of martyrs, or for the Palestinian people to support their steadfastness.

The sources stress that the Palestinian people can confront this conspiracy because they trust their leadership and reject interference in their internal affairs by any side, be it Iran or any other. The sources said the PLO possesses the means to abort those schemes.

In press statements on Wednesday, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat accused Iran of supporting Palestinian groups opposing the peace process. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Interviewed on Current Issues
NC2311113592 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
31 Oct 92 p 16

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] You are the spokesman of a movement that is considered to be an offshoot of the international Muslim Brotherhood organization. How do you assess the current Islamic movement in the aftermath of recent Gulf developments? What changes and divisions have taken place inside this movement?

[Ghawshah] Naturally, I am going to speak from the vantage point of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is considered part of the movement of the Islamic world and has a unified and cohesive policy. I agree with you that trivial differences exist in the political programs of most of the Islamic movements, which are constantly fluctuating and moving from one country to another. However, as regards the basic and general issues, there is no difference of opinion at all. [passage omitted]

In general, the Islamic movement declared the following as its definite stance: The condemnation of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and the condemnation of the shaykhdoms' invitation to the American forces and their continued presence in the region. We believe that a solution to this crisis should be found within the framework of the Islamic countries.

This is why the Islamic movement began its activities in mid-September 1990 and convened meetings with the officials of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a follow up to these efforts, delegations of various Islamic liberation movements visited Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Egypt.

Unfortunately, the Egyptians did not allow us to meet with the leaders of that country and Saudi officials did not allow the delegation to visit Saudi Arabia to carry out

our obligations to prevent bloodshed. The Islamic movement warned all parties that international Zionism was the only group that stood to benefit from the crisis, and that American and Western forces are the instruments of Zionism. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Despite the fact that a peace accord has been reached between the Hamas and the Fatah movements, once again the Palestinian scene is the venue of a bloody war between Palestinian factions. Who is instigating these conflicts? Who stands to gain from them?

[Ghawshah] If we accept that there is a power that aims to pit Muslim groups against one another so that their blood may be shed, the name of "international Zionism" should be mentioned. The Gulf crisis, all the crises of the Islamic world, and the differences between the Palestinian branches are all planned and implemented by Zionist agents.

Regarding the recent clashes: Many people were hoping that there would be elections for autonomy. Peace and calm were needed for the elections to be carried out, as elections could not be held in conditions of intifadah. During his address in Madrid last year, Rabin called for the intifadah to be suspended as a precondition. We are well aware that the U.S.-Zionist plan will never result in autonomy if the intifadah continues. Therefore, all the clashes were aimed at temporarily halting the intifadah and were part of the enemy's plan to keep these groups so involved in internecine strife that they would not utilize their resources against the Zionist enemy.

These clashes were instigated so that Palestinian aspirations and hopes would become undermined and hollow and thus the Palestinians would become so indifferent that they would accept whatever plan or proposal placed before them.

All these plots and plans were aimed at suspending the intifadah and the implementation of the autonomy plan. I wish to stress that the Islamic resistance by Hamas, as the largest Islamic movement in Palestine, will continue with all its might. Hamas is, therefore, adamant that the intifadah should not be suspended. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] You said that the intifadah cannot fight international Zionism by itself, that it needs the assistance of the Arab and Muslim nations. We see that most of the Arab and Islamic countries are seeking to improve their relations with the Zionist enemy. How, then, can the Arab and Muslim people be hopeful and how can the intifadah continue along its course in the hope of victory? Does the Islamic movement have a program to initiate an upheaval?

[Ghawshah] This question has many aspects and, God willing, I will try and answer this question as fully as possible.

First, I agree with you that there is a dangerous plot under way that threatens the entire region; that is, the plot to have the Arab, Islamic fold accept the Zionists. If,

God forbid, this materializes and Arab-Israeli relations improve, as we mentioned earlier, it would engulf all aspects including the political, cultural and social spheres. In this way Israel would be able to attain its strategic objectives of a Greater Israel without fighting.

This is an even greater danger than a military one because the economic resources of the Zionists are extremely advanced scientifically and technologically. They have vast material and specialized resources. God forbid, if by means of signing peace accords the Arabs and Israelis reach a compromise and they implement their plan for autonomy, many Arab workers will be absorbed into the Israeli factories. Arab businesses will collapse because they will not be able to compete with the Israelis' modern industries.

Thus, Israel will dominate the region like Japan dominates southeast Asia and the Arabs will all become employees of the Jews.

Second, when the Zionist regime plans its strategies, it does not take into account merely the resources and capabilities of the Palestinian nation and Arab peoples. It plans to destroy all the resources and powers of the Muslim nations. The Zionist regime will attack Iran, Pakistan, and all Islamic countries. It is not too far-fetched to say that it will harm the resources of these countries to disrupt their industry and technology. The rulers of Islamic countries should be warned of the discord-generating plans of the Zionist enemy.

The best example of this is the attack by the Zionist regime on the Iraqi nuclear plant in the beginning of the eighties. Now the despots of Jerusalem have become even more advanced and strong as regards missiles and enjoy unlimited U.S. support. The United States recently announced a massive grant worth \$10 billion to Israel and the acceptance of hundreds of thousands of Jews. It is highly probable that in the future, the Zionists may also receive loans from European countries, including Germany.

What is the objective of this assistance? The objective is the economic and social development of the Zionist regime so that it can become predominant in the region.

[KEYHAN] What is the objective of your visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Ghawshah] To strengthen relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the first Islamic government established in the twentieth century. We believe that whenever an Islamic government is established in the region, the path for the liberation of Jerusalem becomes smooth. We hope that before the end of the twentieth century, we will have another Islamic government established because it would boost the power and capability of the Muslims.

[KEYHAN] It appears that this is the first independent visit by Hamas leaders to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Could you tell us how successful it has been?

[Ghawshah] This is the second visit by a Hamas delegation to Iran. We were invited by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry, and we have been welcomed. During our talks we have exchanged views on the Palestinian question, on which there is complete unanimity of views. We visited Iran to follow up earlier meetings and to find more support for the Palestinian intifadah. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] 'Arafat said recently that Saddam has deceived the Palestinians by hurling a few missiles toward Israel. As a Palestinian, what is your assessment of 'Arafat's statement after years of having cordial relations with Saddam?

[Ghawshah] I think this question should be put to the relevant persons. However, from the perspective of the Hamas, which moves in line with the general interests of the Muslims and does not concern itself with individuals, I can only say: The Hamas movement declared its clear stance of being part of the world Islamic movement during the war between Iraq and the United States. Even though we do not agree with the despotic regime in Iraq, we supported the people of that country against the U.S. and West's attacks against Iraq.

On principle we oppose all dictatorial regimes that suppress the freedom of the people and do not permit them to air their opinions. This is our general view. We would have liked for the Iraqi military power, comprised of some 60 military battalions, to have helped liberate Palestine rather than attacking a neighboring Muslim country.

However, we support all actions that work against the Zionist regime and try to deal a blow to it. Our stance was, therefore, very clear on the missiles that fell on the Zionist enemy. We would have wanted this to have continued. We wanted the Iraqi ground forces and other Arab countries to join the fray as well because the enemy was the Zionist enemy. If they had done so, peace, tranquillity, security, and stability would have reigned in the region.

True peace can only be attained by returning the Palestinians to their homeland and returning the Zionist aggressors to the countries from where they have come. It is illogical for a nation to say that it has a 4,000-year link to a land but that the nation that was driven out only 40 years ago has no right to return, especially considering that the land is its homeland. Should the world and United Nations forget these people?

[KEYHAN] The Middle East peace talks have been encountering consecutive stalemates. Will the next session suffer the same fate or will the negotiators attain tangible results?

[Ghawshah] Right from the outset, it was clear that there would be an impasse. Those who claim that the talks got bogged down in Madrid are lying. The Arab and Palestinian delegations went to Madrid through a closed tunnel because the conference agenda did not take into

account any of the Arab interests. Most of the Arabs who went to Madrid did not have any other plan in hand (meaning a military proposal in the event of opposition to the peace conference). The balance of power favors the Zionists.

The Palestinian delegation participated at the lowest level (the plan for autonomy) [as published]. It tried to convince the Palestinian public that by participating in the talks it would have the power to maneuver and to gain the upper hand with its Zionist rivals. Thus, it would be able to extort concessions, which it could not attain by means of holy war or struggle.

We Islamists warned the Palestinian delegation that the Zionists would not be willing to part with even an inch of Palestinian land. The Palestinian delegates accuse the Islamists of lacking political acumen, and of being ignorant of the culture of politics. In any case, a year has elapsed and the Arab side participating in the talks has admitted that no progress has been made in the talks. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] There are rumors that Syria will reach an agreement with Israel. Is this true? How true is this rumor?

[Ghawshah] This is not true. First, the Zionists do not seem willing to withdraw entirely from the Golan Heights.

Second, the Syrians insist on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

Third: There is a lot of anxiety in Israeli society regarding the Golan Heights because Israel officially announced their annexation in 1981. Nearly half of the residents are Israeli, who are not prepared to leave.

On the other hand, in view of the strategy of Rabin, who is a militarist, it cannot be foreseen that he will agree to a complete withdrawal. This would be tantamount to permitting the Syrian forces to dominate the northern areas of occupied Palestine and this is the most densely populated area of occupied Palestine.

These reasons indicate that there will be no progress until next year. We expect certain measures and actions to be taken soon to divert the public so that the Palestinian nation will not be able to influence the delegations that go to Washington for talks. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] In the event of a peace accord between the PLO and the Zionist enemy, what will be the position of the Hamas? Will the operations for the holy war continue?

[Ghawshah] First of all, I wish to make the Madrid team (Arab and Palestinians participating in the talks) understand that the Hamas movement and other Islamic and national movements will resist this plot in all its stages and will strive to nip it in the bud. If we cannot do so, we will call on the people to boycott the autonomy elections

so that the flimsy bubble-like position of those supporting autonomy will become obvious to the world. If the United States and Zionism succeed, with the help of their lackeys (the Madrid team), in implementing this autonomy plan, the Islamic movement will combat it with all its resources and experience.

I advise them to think carefully and be vigilant; the Islamic movement will not lay down its arms. There are

no such terms as compromise and surrender in the Islamic cultural lexicon. The prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) has taught us the meaning of jihad and fortitude. Therefore the obsequious groups should comprehend and know that the continuation of this trend will extract a massive price. Some of them have already realized this and have declared their concurrence with the holding of a referendum within and outside the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Supreme Court Refuses To Release FIS Leaders

LD2411231792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] The Supreme Court is refusing provisional release of the leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). This was affirmed today by a source at the Supreme Court, who explained that the criminal division of the Supreme Court has rejected a plea for their provisional release submitted by the defense of FIS leaders on 27 October. FIS leaders had expressed their intention last July to appeal against the sentences passed by the military court in Blida which ranged between 4 and 12 years imprisonment.

Police Arrest 6 'Terrorists' in Constantine

LD2511201692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French
1800 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] We return to Constantine where security forces have arrested a group of six terrorists who were, in particular, responsible for the attack on the administrative building of the University of Constantine last summer. Noureddine Zaidi reports:

[Zaidi] The police force of Constantine Province managed to bring to an end the activity of six terrorists who specialized in bomb-making and in terrorist attacks. These terrorists have carried out many attacks so far, including those against the 14th floor of the University of Constantine and the Constantine radio administration department in Bab el Kettar. Among those arrested are students and people who work in quarries. The latter worked in a laboratory for the manufacturing of bombs and firearms working from diagrams. Many terrorist groups are sought by the police forces of Constantine Province. The police have seized firearms and 50 kg of TNT, as well as weapons manufactured according to diagrams that were found on those arrested.

Ali Kafi Appoints New Senior Officials

LD2411183092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] We have just received a statement from the Higher State Council concerning new appointments at senior posts. Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, has appointed Mr. Abdelaziz Jerrad as general secretary of the Presidency, Mr. Abdelaziz Khellaf as minister delegate to the foreign minister in charge of cooperation and Maghreb affairs, Mr. Beyoucef Bala Ali as an adviser in charge of diplomatic affairs at the Higher State Council, and Mohamed Merzoug as an adviser in charge of communications at the Higher State Council.

Egypt

'Amr Musa Comments on Foreign Policy Issues

NC2611090492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that diplomacy and foreign policy are related to domestic policy, the combined goal of both being to achieve security, development, and prosperity. Musa pointed out that Egyptian diplomacy has been instrumental to the Middle East peace process, referring in this regard to the initiatives made by President Hosni Mubarak.

This came in a statement the foreign minister delivered last night at a meeting of the Consultative Council's Arab and External Affairs and Defense Committee. Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Helmi chaired the meeting.

The foreign minister said all nations treat their economies as a top priority. His excellency explained that Egypt seeks to promote the peace process and consolidate security in the Arab region. He pointed out that the situation in the Middle East has improved now following the change of government in Israel. The current Israeli Government is willing to discuss matters and show commitment to the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The foreign minister said there are opportunities and possibilities concerning the Palestinian-Israeli discourse that Egypt will try to promote. He said the U.S. policy will be continuous, noting that the change of administrations in the United States does not mean a change in course, because U.S. policies are based on a broad understanding of the regional situation and the need to achieve peace.

Musa said the situation in the Gulf is very worrying because of the lack of balance in the region, the emerging practices of hegemony, and the tendency to settle matters through the use of force, all of which may lead to chaos and heighten tensions. Musa said that two major wars have been fought in that region, which therefore cannot afford more wars. Musa said that Egypt, as an Arab country, has a commitment toward the Gulf countries. Any manipulation of these countries or meddling in their sovereignty will cause problems. Egypt, he added, would like to see everyone reconsider their calculations, opt for cooperation, and abandon the ambitions of hegemony and expansion. Egypt wishes to see calm and security consolidated in the Gulf, he said.

The foreign minister said the Iranian people are a brotherly nation who traditionally have had good relations with Egypt and the Arabs. To maintain such relations should not be a daunting task for the Arabs or Iran. Musa asserted that Egypt cannot leave the Arab world prey to fragmentation or remain silent when Arab land is being threatened or the sovereignty of Arab countries challenged.

Musa said that domination and manipulation are not the appropriate approaches to dealing with Egypt. Other countries should deal with Egypt in an appropriate manner.

The foreign minister said the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina has not been confronted properly and that the situation there has reached a grave turn with ethnic cleansing. Serious human rights violations are taking place in this part of the world, he said.

Concerning Somalia, Musa said the problem there is being exacerbated by the ongoing power struggle, adding that the situation calls for UN intervention on the scale that took place in Cambodia.

Answering a question on Egyptian-U.S. relations under the new U.S. Administration, Musa said that aid will not continue at its current rate [lan tastamir al-ma'unat bi hadha al-shaki]. Economic progress in Egypt depends on our ability to increase production and reform the economy.

Answering a question on Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the light of Iranian-Sudanese rapprochement, Musa said our relations with Sudan are vital and enduring. Sudan is an independent country that has the right to formulate its own policies, but it would be completely unacceptable if these policies were to disturb the security of neighboring countries. Musa said Egypt is being reasonable and that relations between Egypt and Sudan should be continuous and stable. He reiterated that anything that harms Egyptian or Arab security is unacceptable.

Notes 'Differences' With Iran

NC2511163092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt does not seek to create any differences with Iran, but it does not accept any policy that could undermine Arab security or plant seeds of chaos in the region. He stressed the need to maintain security for all Arab parties.

The foreign minister was commenting on the recent escalation on the part of Iran. He added that it is necessary for these countries to feel secure about their sovereignty, territories, and security. However, he added, this does not deny the fact that the Iranian people are a Muslim and brotherly people. He noted that the escalation between Egypt and Iran had begun after Iran's occupation of Abu Musa island.

Musa made these remarks to reporters this afternoon. He noted that his meetings today with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas and the Israeli ambassador, separately, were part of Egypt's consultations to give impetus to the peace talks and bring the parties' views closer. He noted that consultations are now under way to set another date for the meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states in Beirut, in view of the engagements by some of the ministers.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1455 GMT on 25 November transmits a similar report, which adds the following: "The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the Middle East peace process, scheduled to be held in Beirut on 29 November, has been postponed to a later date because of engagements by some of the ministers. This was stated today by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who added that contacts are under way to set another date for the meeting."]

Iran Said Financing International Terror Front

NC2611110992 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 23 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] According to an official security source, an international front has been formed to spread terrorism in Egypt. The front, which is financed by Iran, includes representatives of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi of Sudan, Rached Ghannouchi of Tunisia, the Islamic Salvation Front of Algeria, the Hamas Movement of Palestine, and al-Jihad Movement of Egypt. The source says that the front is holding regular meetings in Sudan and is being financed, guided, and armed by Iran.

MISR AL-FATAH has learned that the front has a program to spread terrorism in al-Minya, Bani Suwayf, al-Fayyum, and al-Sharqiya Governorates and in the Imbaba and Bulaq al-Dakrur sections of Cairo. The front is recruiting young men and paying them generously in dollars to kill innocent people and strike at tourism.

Meanwhile, the government has a new security plan to fight terrorists and extremists which involves the use of more personnel and faster transportation. Special troops and antiterror teams, backed by helicopters, will hunt down extremists in sugarcane plantations and mountain caves in Upper Egypt.

Links to 'Terrorists' Noted

NC2611160392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—An Interior Ministry source has stated that interrogation of the terrorists the security forces arrested in Alexandria on 24 November has revealed the existence of a plan to strike at tourism and vital installations, assassinate a number of personalities, create disturbances, and destabilize the country.

In a statement to MENA, the source said that since the start of the attacks on foreign tourists in remote areas in Upper Egypt, the security forces have stepped up their efforts to arrest the culprits and those behind them, and to unveil the dimensions of this terrorist plan.

The source explained that the arrest of the culprits in the attack on the tourist bus in Qena on 12 November took place in record time and has been received with great satisfaction by all sections of the people, who have confidence in the security forces' capability and efficiency.

The source said that the security forces were careful to take the culprits alive so as to identify the leaders who led them to commit these criminal acts that do not conform with religion, ethics, or Egyptian hospitality.

The source said that the security forces could have killed terrorist Hasan Shihatah Badran, defendant number 18 in the al-Jihad Organization case currently being examined by the Higher Military Court in Alexandria, who was arrested in Alexandria yesterday. The accused opened fire on the police force, seriously injuring two police officers. The security forces did not open fire on him for fear of hitting his children, behind whom he was hiding.

The source said that the security forces will continue their efforts to determine who is financing the terrorists in light of their confessions and in light of the results of the interrogation of three Egyptians and two non-Egyptians who were arrested last night while trying to smuggle 36 kg of gold through the al-Salam border point. The source said that this attempt, which was uncovered in Alexandria, most probably comes within the framework of financing the extremist elements from abroad and providing them with funds and weapons to implement their plans to destabilize the country.

Major General Baha' al-Din Ibrahim, assistant interior minister for public relations, has stated that initial information indicates that Iran, Afghanistan, and Sudan are involved in financing and training the extremist and terrorist elements. He added that the security forces will continue their efforts to obtain full and complete evidence of the involvement of these states in criminal acts against Egypt. The evidence will be submitted to the political leadership so as to make a proper decision in this connection.

Liberal Party Leader Warns Iran

NC2611052902 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
23 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Text] Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has made a statement urging the Iranian Government to carefully reassess its policies toward the Arab world, particularly the Gulf states, including Iraq. He urged Iran to attempt to study facts and consequences more carefully, especially concerning Egypt.

Murad advised the Iranian Government to be careful when making decisions and to avoid falling into a major trap that could provoke a war with Iraq or the Gulf countries, which would cause further killing and devastate the Arab and Iranian economies. He said Iran must learn the lesson of its war with Iraq and must remember that if armed clashes erupt with Iraq or its Gulf neighbors there will be neither victor nor vanquished. He said that the only beneficiary would be Israel and arms-producing countries. He asked if Iran would learn this lesson, exercise self-restraint toward its neighbors, and abandon the policy of exporting revolution to the Arab

and Islamic countries and sending money and arms to further this end and create instability.

He concluded by saying: Iran must be wiser and more reasonable. It must revise its foreign policy toward its neighbors.

Media Comment on Iranian Efforts

'Scheme' Against Arabs Seen

NC2511200492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Commentary by 'Asif Umar: "The Iranian Satan's Schemes Against the Arab Nation"]

[Text] In an expanded meeting of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council chaired by head of the regime Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian gang ruling Tehran discussed the scope of its new aggressive scheme against the Arab states in the future. The new scheme seeks to set up sabotage and terrorism bases in Arab and Islamic countries, most importantly Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia. This is particularly so since these three states took the lead in exposing that regime's plots at home and abroad, thus becoming a source of danger to the Iranian ruling regime. These three countries' media lay the facts in full before the Iranian people, so continuing to expose and bare the Iranian regime before its own people constitutes a serious danger to the rulers and poses a threat to the gains they make from maintaining their tight grip on power.

The recent meeting of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council was devoted to confronting these states, whose media continue to unveil the schemes of the Iranian regime, whether at home against the Iranian people themselves or abroad against Arab and Islamic peoples. Investigations by the Egyptian security departments with the saboteurs recruited to work for Iranian intelligence have revealed Tehran's involvement in operations against certain tourists in Upper Egypt.

The facts that have surfaced on the satanic Persian schemes to control Arab and Islamic states are particularly clear in view of the serious events in Algeria and the lowly role played by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and [FIS leader] Abhas Madani's group, which were in direct contact with and received financial support from Iranian intelligence. Investigations revealed that Iran had promised FIS \$5 billion if it took over in Algeria.

Iran played a similar role with the al-Nahdath extremist group in Tunisia. Tunisian security departments uncovered this role as well as people involved from other countries, something that ultimately prompted Tunisia to break off its diplomatic ties with these countries.

Iran's continuous aggressive practices against Arab and Islamic peoples in Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt prove beyond any doubt that the regime of mullahs in Iran unquestionably seeks to weaken the Arab and Islamic

nation and shatter its capabilities in an attempt to impose its hegemony and permanent custodianship. This would serve the Iranian scheme that Tehran has long been trying to realize, by using malicious means. What is happening in Lebanon is the best proof of what we are saying. The bases in which pro-Iranian elements are stationed in southern Lebanon only serve the interests of Iran as well as those of the Israeli presence in Lebanon. Proof of this is that the Iranian Government rejected a proposal by new Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to bring Lebanese territories under the control of the Lebanese Army in an attempt to end the acute crisis in his country. However, the Lebanese request met with Iranian rejection, since it meant the withdrawal of Hizballah troops from southern Lebanon, thus lifting Iran's compulsory custodianship on Lebanon. Thus, the masks hiding the true Iranian objectives have dropped, and the truth or goals of the Iranian ambitions in the Arab and Islamic states can no longer be doubted.

This leads us to wonder about the role of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is operating inside the occupied Arab territories and which has close links with the Iranian regime, as well as the reasons for the violent confrontation gripping this organization with the PLO. Does this armed confrontation between these two groups serve the Palestinian cause, as Tehran's rulers claim? We challenge the Tehran regime to cite a single positive role played by Iranian rulers for the sake of the Palestinian people, whether in terms of military confrontation with Israel or political activity to regain the legitimate rights of this people.

All the past and present stands by Tehran's rulers prove this regime's involvement in all acts of sabotage committed by the agents of mullahs inside the Arab countries aimed at weakening the economic capabilities of these countries, waiting for any chance to seize power, the same as FIS tried to do in Algeria and the al-Nahdah group in Tunisia. However, we affirm to the Iranian rulers, who have lost part or even all of their senses, that Egypt and its people see in the antiterrorism operations an attempt that has one goal—to strike at the Egyptian economy and undermine the Egyptian people's constant endeavors, in solidarity with the leadership, to emerge from the economic crises they face for reasons beyond their control. Despite all this, all Egyptians continue their struggle day and night to face the increase in prices. Any foreign attempt by the rulers of Tehran, through their misled agents, will be firmly confronted. The Egyptian people, after having unveiled all the Iranian goals, have become immune to these schemes and will not allow the elements of sabotage and extremism to operate covertly.

Efforts To Buy Arms Noted

NC2611072592 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0603 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR comments in its editorial today on reports carried by news

agencies and foreign intelligence services about Iran's constant efforts to buy conventional weapons and nuclear-powered submarines, for which they are paying billions of dollars that should be spent on the poverty-stricken Iranian people.

It says: The prevailing view among various observers is that Iran is buying these weapons for specific objectives. Logic justifies this view.

It then asks: Have not Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the other members of the Iranian regime learned a lesson from what happened to their neighbor Saddam Husayn? Have they not learned a lesson from a ruler who preceded them in massing weapons from all over the world, and who spent Iraq's vast oil wealth on stockpiling weapons and attempting to manufacture nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction for the sake of achieving a false leadership?

AL-AKHBAR also asks: Of what use were all these weapons which the Baghdad ruler massed when all countries decided to confront him and cut him down to size following the catastrophe of the Kuwaiti invasion? What has become of him now that he is living under illusions?

The paper adds: Is there not a single sane man among Iran's rulers who has read the lessons of past and contemporary history and learned from them, and who can draw the attention of his amateurish political colleagues to what could happen to them and to their country if they one day attempt to follow the same thorny road that Saddam Husayn risked to cross and which led him to destruction?

Russian Ambassador on Arms Sales to Iran

NC2611142392 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1147 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Mouni today met with Vladimir Polyakov, Russian ambassador in Cairo. The ambassador said after the meeting that the talks dealt with the Middle East situation and the developments in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations before the start of the eighth round of talks. The Russian ambassador said that today's meeting is part of the Egyptian-Russian consultations and exchange of opinions concerning issues of mutual interest.

In his statement, the Russian ambassador in Cairo said that there is an agreement between Egypt and Russia over international and regional problems. Thus, the ambassador added, would enable the two sides to play their roles in solving these problems.

Ambassador Polyakov noted that his country is conducting close contacts with Egypt, the United States, Israel, and the Palestinians to work out a solution to the

problems which are obstructing the road of peace negotiations. He emphasized that Russia calls for continuing the peace negotiations and talks and for finding solutions acceptable to all sides.

To a question about supplying Iran with Russian weapons, the Russian ambassador said that his country's relations with Iran are good, noting that there is economic and military cooperation between the two countries. He said, however, that this does not mean that Russia is trying to make Iran a superpower in the region. He said that the quantity of Russian weapons sold to Iran is 10 times less than the amount of weapons the United States is selling to the region's states.

Writer Criticizes Syrian Statements on Iran

NC2611112492 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 23 Nov 92 p 1

["Without Sensitivities" column by Samir Rajab: "These Statements Coming From 'Dearest' Damascus on Iran: Is Their Timing Right?"—all punctuation as published]

[Text] Some statements have emanated from dear "Damascus" in the past few days... I do not understand their significance... or their aims... and whether their timing is right...?

The statements coming from "dearest" Damascus said that Iran is a Gulf country... has interests, and is concerned with the region's security plan...! and no one can deny this role...!

I personally say... that these statements are not appropriate at a time when Iran is attempting to impose its control and hegemony over the region... and is pushing extremism and encouraging them to carry out terrorist actions that threaten the security and safety of most Arab countries... I do not think that this conduct is unknown to "dearest" Damascus... which remains so far... a member of the "declaration" that bears the name of the Syrian capital... and which is threatened with cancellation... after its fatality has been proven...!

If dearest "Damascus"... has chosen this particular time to "flatter" Iran... then it should take into account the future possibilities, especially if the Tehran rulers continue... to practice the same methods against the Arab nation.

I understand—from my purely personal viewpoint—that the Arab countries should rally together against any attempt that threatens their peoples' security and stability, regardless of the different forms of their ruling systems...! As Iran has committed aggression against the sovereignty and rights of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] without anyone making it return to its senses... then we are all certain that its "long arm" will extend to the other Gulf countries... country... by country... without discrimination...! Consequently, it will occupy

the position of "Baghdad", which had invaded Kuwait... and whose "ruler" wanted to reach other countries in the region...!

Also... if the Arab countries deal in a large measure of negativism with the terrorism being exported by Iran to them... then the latter's rulers will continue with their perversity and errors while hiding behind the robe of Islam...!

Anyhow... the Arabs are facing a new test today... and they have to learn the lessons... and heed the lessons of the past... Therefore... I hope that the statements coming from dearest Damascus... were purely coincidental...!

Mubarak Urges 'Full Cooperation' With Algeria

NC2611175892 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1318 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Algerian Religious Affairs Minister Sami Lamouri has praised relations between Egypt and Algeria in all fields. Following a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak this morning, Lamouri said he conveyed to Mubarak greetings from Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council. He also discussed all issues of interest to the two countries. He said that President Mubarak had responded positively to strengthening Egyptian-Algerian relations.

Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali al-Mahjub, who attended the meeting, said the Algerian minister expressed the Algerian people's and leaders' appreciation of the great role played by the Egyptian people and president in supporting Algeria. He noted that at the request of the Algerian minister, President Mubarak demanded that there be full cooperation between the two countries, especially now when the two countries are being targeted by foreign forces.

Al-Mahjub said Egypt and Algeria reject the movements Iran is exporting to the Arab and Islamic worlds and stressed the need to confront them. He noted that President Mubarak gave instructions that a number of Egyptian scientists and professors be sent to Algeria to work side by side with their brothers in Algeria to stand up to the ferocious thoughts infiltrating the Islamic world and to immunize Algerian youth against extremist ideas.

Foreign Minister: Damascus Declaration 'Faltering'

NC2711052892 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 22 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated in Dakar yesterday that the Damascus Declaration is faltering [yastammah] and it is high time to reconsider it to develop it. He added that Iran must fully understand that the Gulf is not a zone of influence for it. He noted while on the subject of regional security measures that Iran is threatening this security, which involves many risks and is playing with fire. Musa said that it has become extremely important to intensify the discussion

about pan-Arab security among the Arab states, be it all of them or just those that are interested in or affected by this topic.

Paper Urges Continued Participation in Peace Talks
NC2711301492 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0602 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM calls for continuation of the peace negotiations as the only way to achieve the just, lasting, and hoped-for settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper believes that no matter how plausible the argument of those calling for suspending participation in the eighth round of talks—to protest Israel's intransigence—the desire to make the peace efforts successful should be given precedence over all other considerations.

AL-AHRAM explains in its editorial today that Israel hopes the Arabs and Palestinians will suspend participation in the talks so that it can cast doubt on the Arabs' credibility regarding peace.

AL-AHRAM says that although the Israeli position remains intransigent and does not help achieve peace, the Arabs should not give Israel a chance to evade the peace process.

The paper concludes that continuing the negotiations, even with limited progress, is much better than suspending them and reburial the cause—something not in the interests of the Arabs or the Palestinians.

Official Denies Hamas Ployers Infiltrated Country
NC2611123392 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASAT
in Arabic 22 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Moust]

[Text] Assistant Interior Minister Major General Hassan al-Ahuri has denied an Israeli radio report that a group of followers belonging to the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement have infiltrated Egyptian territory after shooting an Israeli soldier.

He told AL-AHRAM AL-MASAT that no personnel whatsoever have infiltrated Egypt by land, air, or sea checkpoints, which are subject to strict security measures. He asserted that there is full security coordination among the security agencies to prevent infiltrations of Egyptian territory.

He pointed out that security authorities have tightened control over the [Aswan] High Dam checkpoint to prevent any attempts by terrorist groups run by hostile regimes to cross into Egypt from the Sudanese border. He said a wide-scale search is made of all travelers arriving from abroad, especially suspicious people coming in from certain countries. These people's passports are checked very thoroughly, he said. All ports and

checkpoints, he added, have been provided with the latest equipment to spot any illegal items brought in by those arriving from abroad.

Al-Ahuri said the Egyptian security authorities do not allow Sudanese nationals to enter Egypt without first obtaining entry visas and without knowing the purpose of their request for entry to avoid any problems between the countries and to ensure safe procedures at the legal checkpoints.

Egypt Denies 'Arafat Refused Permission To Land
NC2611183892 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt, has denied a report published by a Jordanian paper today claiming that Egypt recently denied Palestinian president Yasser 'Arafat's plane permission to land at Cairo Airport on route from Khartoum to Tunis because the Israeli foreign minister was in Cairo at the time.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian ambassador affirmed that he personally received 'Arafat during his refusing stop at Cairo Airport and conveyed to him an important message from President Hosni Mubarak and received his reply. He said that such reports lead to misunderstandings in inter-Arab relations, particularly Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

Islamic Group Spokesman Interviewed on Attacks
NC2511145392 Paris AFP in English
1353 GMT 25 Nov 92

[By Basma Mahmod]

[Text] Cairo, Nov 25 (AFP)—Muslim fundamentalists will keep up their attacks on tourism in Egypt because of its corrupting influence, a spokesman for the underground organization al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] told AFP in an interview.

"Tourism bring alien customs and morals which offend Islam, especially the attire of some women," an al-Jama'ah religious leader said in the poor district of Imbaba, an Islamic stronghold of Cairo that is home to one million people.

"Tourism must be hit because it is corrupt," the 27-year-old university graduate, known by the nom de guerre of Shaykh Hassan, said after evening prayers in a mosque Tuesday.

Shaykh Hassan said he awaited instructions on the strategy to combat tourism from the "supreme leadership." A communiqué would be published, he said.

Surrounded by young supporters, he gave brief instructions and then prayers were followed by a public meeting on Lumar Street, a road long abandoned by the municipal services.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has claimed several attacks on tourists, notably in southern Egypt where a British woman was killed in October.

Tourism, a pillar of the country's economy, has since recorded a 10-20 percent drop in bookings.

Sheikh Hassan said the struggle against tourism—which brought in three billion dollars this year—was ongoing despite the government's "anti-Islamic laws" to curb attacks.

Egypt's mufti or key religious leader, Sheikh Sayyid Tantawi, was "in the pay of the government since his fellow (religious official) serve an impious regime," he charged.

For al-Jama'ah, the real mufti is their blind spiritual guide, Sheikh Umar Abd-al Rahman, who was implicated in president Anwar Sadat's assassination in October 1981 but acquitted and has lived in the United States for the past two years.

He still advocates an Islamic state by recording cassette in New York, much as late Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini did from exile in France before the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran.

Sheikh Hassan was reluctant to discuss the movement's hierarchy, which he said answers to a collective higher authority.

Other al-Jama'ah members call the leadership "majlis al-shura," or consultative council—a structure through which the leadership's directives are followed throughout the country.

Sheikh Hassan believes the life of the elderly Sheikh Abd-al Rahman may be under threat in the United States.

"If Egyptian intelligence threatens our spiritual guide's life, our revenge will be without mercy. We've prepared a long list of Egyptian figures," he warned.

But he acknowledged police had stepped up pressure on al-Jama'ah members.

Authorities on Tuesday arrested four fundamentalists suspected of carrying out an attack November 12 on a tourist bus, along with a leader of their group. Six German women and two Egyptians were wounded in the raid in southern Egypt.

"Two days ago, to arrest four of our members, police came backed by four armored cars, one of which crushed the entrance of the building where they were," Sheikh Hassan said.

He said security forces numbered 8,000 in the Muslim strongholds of southern Egypt and drew a comparison with the situation for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Repression won't make us bend," a voice on a loud-speaker resonated outside on Luxor Street.

"We'll offer our chests to their bullets as the Islam we seek to establish is not just in Egypt, but in Syria, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and worldwide."

Libya

Government Said Ready To Turn Over Bombing Suspects

NC2511164092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Nov 92
p 1

[Text] A correspondent for AL-AHRAM has learned that the Libyan Government sent a letter in Arabic to UN Secretary General Butros-Ghali through the head of the Libyan mission at the United Nations. The letter says that Libya is ready to hand over the suspects in the bombing of the two planes. The letter was translated into English, and Dr. Butros-Ghali will meet with the representatives of the United States, Britain, and France.

Official Denies 'Saboteurs' Sent to Egypt

NC2511191892 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 25 Nov 92
p 1

[Text] In a statement to AL-AHRAR, a Libyan official denied that Libyan authorities knew of the terrorists who recently infiltrated into Egypt via Libyan territory.

Egyptian Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Munir told the People's Assembly Defense and National Security Committee on 21 November that security forces arrested some saboteurs on 20 November who had received their training abroad. He said that two cases of such infiltration are being investigated by the authorities in Alexandria and involve 59 young men who had slipped into the country across the Libyan and Sudanese borders.

The Libyan official added that Libya has absolutely no terrorist-training camps and its fraternal relations with Egypt do not permit any kind of offense against Egypt. He explained that perhaps those saboteurs were sent to Egypt by another country via Libyan territory to give the impression that they were trained in Libya, thereby undermining Libyan-Egyptian relations. There has been significant improvement in these relations recently.

The Libyan official challenged any of the captured saboteurs to confront him with the locations of the camps or the names of the people in charge of them.

Mauritania

President Meets With OAU Secretary General

LD2211235092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
2030 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpts] At noon today, President Maouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya received Salim Ahmad Salim, the secretary general of the OAU who is currently visiting our country. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Salim declared that he and the president discussed the various challenges facing the continent, democracy in the continent, and ways to entrench it in peace, security, and stability. He said that the talks encompassed matters relating to the conflicts in the continent, particularly the situation in Somalia and Liberia, and the important role which needs to be played to bring about peace. Economic development cannot be achieved before security prevails, he stated, adding that he and the president also discussed cooperation between the African states and the vital character of that cooperation which cannot be forgone if the African continent is to play its role. [passage omitted]

Salim also said that they reviewed Arab-African cooperation and the role which Mauritania could play in this respect in its capacity as a member of both the Arab League and the OAU. [passage omitted]

President Receives Message From King Hassan

LD2211032292 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Mr. Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, received at noon today in Nouakchott Mr. Ahmed Bensouda, King Hassan's adviser, who delivered to him a message from His Majesty King Hassan II.

Following this meeting, Mr. Ahmed Bensouda made a statement in which he pointed out that the message is connected with the current situation in the Arab World and the necessary means to restore peace and stability among the Arabs.

Cabinet Meets, Ratifies Several Bills

LD2611090592 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
2030 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met this morning under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

The cabinet examined and ratified the following bills:

1. A bill fixing official holidays, aimed at making the national holidays compatible with the country's democratic political system;
2. A procedural bill concerning the amendment of some provisions of ordinance No. 139/82 issued on 2

November 1982, which concerns the composition of the Higher Judicial Council. The amendment is aimed at making the composition of this council compatible with the new organization of the judiciary on the one hand and with the new institutional environment emanating from the democratic system, on the other.

3. The third bill is on the ratification of the loan agreement signed on 4 November 1992 in Vienna between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the OPEC Fund to finance a program for the subsidization of imports. This loan granted by the OPEC Fund for International Development is worth \$6.4 million, corresponding to 691.2 million ouguiyas;

4. The fourth bill amends ordinance No. 017/91 issued on 20 July 1991. This bill, which falls within the framework of the liberal policy followed by the country, is aimed at ending the monopoly of reinsurance which was granted to the Mauritanian Company of Insurance and Reinsurance (SMAR).

The Council of Ministers also ratified two draft decrees: the first concerns the amendment of some provisions of decree No. 224/90 issued on 10 September 1990 providing for the creation and naming of the regions of the province of Nouakchott and defining their legal jurisdiction and territorial boundaries; the second is about the temporary granting of a plot of land in Nouakchott to Mohamed Fadel Enterprises.

The president of the republic also briefed the Council of Ministers on the audience he accorded to Mr. Ahmed Bensouda, envoy of His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco, who was carrying a message from the Moroccan monarch. This visit falls within the framework of the consultations between the leaders of the Maghreb states to find the best ways to confront the problems facing the Arab nation today. [passage omitted]

Minister Briefs Senate on Government Policy

LD2611202292 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
0000 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Ismail Ould Yahi, minister of contacts and relations with parliament, delivered in the name of the prime minister, the prime minister's report on the government activity in 1992 and the scope of its action for 1993, to the Senate.

The minister of contacts and relations with parliament spoke on the extreme difficulties facing the world economy, which led even in industrial states to a moderate rate of growth and had a negative effect on world trade. He then went on to talk about the effect that this international situation has left on the various sectors of the national economic activity, in the shadow of the noticeable decline in the quantity of rainfall.

Despite these difficulties, the minister said, our country has achieved a 2.4 percent growth rate, thanks to the

achievements in the sectors of fishing, services, transport, and public works. He then spoke about the financing and foreign aid agreements and said:

[Begin Yahi recording] What is a cause for pleasure in this context is the signing during this year alone of 32 financing and foreign aid agreements totalling 18 billion ouguiya, of which 47 percent were in the form of grants and 25.6 percent in the form of concessionary loans. In addition a program for cooperation with the UN development program for 1992-1996 was prepared. [passage indistinct] Accumulated payments from the investment budget for the first ten months of 1992 totalled 8 billion ouguiya out of 15 billion approved originally for the whole year. [passage omitted]

The shortfall in rainfall for the last two years has led to a shortfall in agricultural crops; this also damaged animal wealth. Our cereals output for this year is estimated at 72,950 tonnes. This represents a slight decline on the previous year and will result in a significant deficit in the area of food security. [passage omitted]

The year 1992 occupied a special place in the history of our people which is rich with glories. It is a year in which the establishing of democratic institutions was completed, thus constituting a decisive turn in building our modern state. A few months ago I spoke to you about the broad lines of the policy which the government intends to pursue in line with the directives of his excellency the president of the republic with the aim of consolidating the gains scored by our country within the context of the programs for economic rehabilitation adopted by our country since 1985. In this context our country lately signed with the IMF and the World Bank a framework program for economic policy pursued by our country. This program which enjoys the support of all our partners in development aims at restoring internal and external equilibrium to our economy, the achievement of economic growth, and the combating of unemployment by way of deepening economic reforms in the vital sectors. In accordance with this program our country will get new concessionary resources; it will also allow the consolidation of relations of trust between us and the IMF. This will create a favorable climate for the attraction of investment, the key to all development and progress. In this context, the prospects of the first year of this economic program, 1992, seem encouraging. Because, according to the expectations and available indicators, the rate of growth will be 3.5 percent in view of the progress in the agricultural sector and the improvements in the fishing sector and the sector of public works.

Also thanks to the strict financial policy adopted by the government, the state's financial transactions will record a surplus of 2.4 percent of the GDP. Monetary policy will be characterized by being even tougher without this affecting the credit policy to the special productive sectors. The state of the balance of payments will improve under the influence of increased exports by 13 percent and restricting [growth of] imports to 6 percent.

The current account deficit outside public transfers will be reduced by 11 percent; 4 percent will be added if we take into consideration imports for the Masoudass project. Also thanks to the rescheduling of debts and thanks to the drawing on external resources, the Mauritanian Central Bank will be able secure its needs of hard currency and meet external commitments. [passage omitted]

At the level of foreign policy our country will continue to consolidate good neighborliness with neighboring sister states and work for the realization of collective Maghriban projects, in accordance with the principles outlined by his excellency the president of the republic. [passage omitted] [End recording]

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Ties With Neighbors, Food Supply

EA261111J092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has stressed that Sudan now enjoys excellent and firm relations with African, particularly neighboring, states. He said the diplomatic move initiated by the revolution had succeeded in breaking the blockade imposed on Sudan. That is what he told media and information leaders during a meeting at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers this morning.

Referring to his recent visit to Kenya, the Chadian president's visit to Sudan, and those of officials to a number of African states, Lt. Gen. Umar al-Bashir said these reciprocal visits were aimed at promoting cooperation and consultation on regional issues and brotherhood with these states in the service of joint interests. He referred in this context to the bilateral agreements recently signed between Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda to expand trade. His Excellency drew attention to the agreement recently signed in al-Junaynah in Darfur State to provide for Chadian national reconciliation, stressing that this agreement had inspired Chad and France with great confidence in the national salvation revolution's policies and had refuted Western media fabrications to the effect that Sudan was imposing its policies on others.

Lt. Gen. Umar al-Bashir added that President Idriss Deby's visit to Sudan was to express his country's gratitude for Sudan's role in this reconciliation. His Excellency referred to the current visit of Major General al-Zuhayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, to Ethiopia, saying that its purpose was to review bilateral agreements, follow up their implementation, and to activate cooperation between the two countries.

The chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers stressed Sudan's keenness to develop its relations with African states, as illustrated by the allocation of

100,000 tonnes of surplus grain production to support African states in their fight against famine.

Referring to the second round of the Abuja negotiations, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir described the Nigerian-Sudanese move, saying: We want this to be the final round for the achievement of final and comprehensive peace, thus closing the door to war in order to safeguard lives and infrastructure, halt the unlimited expenditure on war, and to close the gap through which the Western media are trying to attack Sudan on the basis of human rights violations.

Lt. Gen. Umar al-Bashir expressed gratitude to the quarters cooperating with Sudan to provide Sudanese victims with relief, primarily the United Nations and its various bodies involved in Operation Lifeline Sudan. Lt. Gen. Umar al-Bashir described Operation Lifeline as an unprecedented Sudanese experiment to dispatch food to the relevant areas.

His Excellency confirmed that Sudan had plenty of food. He said: The only existing problem is transporting it to the affected places. Stressing the high cost of transportation, he said help was needed from the organizations in that sector. We also need to develop the secure areas to render them productive.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed the success of this year's agricultural season, noting that a harvest of over 7 million tonnes of sorghum was expected. Sugar production was expected to reach 515,000 tonnes, this including a surplus of about 109,000 tonnes. He said wheat cultivation would be concentrated on high productivity areas. He said 60 percent of the financing of agriculture emanated from the resources of banks and 40 percent from farmers. He said the agricultural bank would soon begin participating in the financing of agriculture.

RCC Delegation Returns From Ethiopia

EA2611192392 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and of the Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Khartoum at noon

today from Addis Ababa after leading Sudan's delegation at the meeting of the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian ministerial committee.

In a statement on his arrival, his excellency explained that he had dealt with the developing relations between the two countries with Ethiopian officials. He said the political and economic agreements would receive full attention from Lieutenant General al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, and the Ethiopian president, Meles Zenawi. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Meets Eritrean Envoys

EA2211124092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, met the secretaries of foreign relations and defense of the Provisional Eritrean Government at his office yesterday evening.

His excellency acquainted himself with a message from the Eritrean president, Isayas Afewerki, about the latest developments in the Eritrean area and the progress of the preparation for the referendum for the independence of Eritrea. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed Sudan's firm stand towards Eritrea and promised to offer support and assistance to make the referendum successful.

Envoys: Egypt Not Restricting Movement of Sudanese

NC2511112992 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0855 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jaf al-Haq has reiterated that the Egyptian Government will not impose any restrictions on movement between Egypt and Sudan.

In press statements here today, the ambassador denied reports that the Egyptian Government has imposed restrictions on Sudanese nationals entering Egypt, noting that the reports are baseless. Dr. Jaf al-Haq emphasized that Egypt—its people and government—is proud of the Sudanese.

The ambassador said the current circumstances through which relations between the two countries are passing form a summer cloud that will soon disperse. He called for continuing the joint committee's efforts to solve the Hala'ib problem to benefit the two peoples.

GCC Holds Ministerial Council Meeting 25 Nov**UAE Minister on Relations With Iran***JN2511160902 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1210 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Nov (WAKH)—Rashid bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, foreign affairs minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan, president of the UAE, is truly and sincerely renewing his continuous call on Arab states to establish Arab solidarity based on true mutual commitments that would provide security and tranquility to all.

This came in his statements to the press here today after the end of the 45th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council. His statements dealt with UAE-Iranian relations, inter-Arab links, pan-Arab security, and joint Arab action, hoping that Arab ranks would regain their unity and solidarity.

Rashid bin-'Abdallah said that the GCC Ministerial Council has finished preparing an agenda for next month's 13th GCC summit, praising the positive contribution of participating delegations to the success of the session.

In this respect, the foreign affairs minister said that another Ministerial Council meeting will be held on 19 December, before the summit conference, so discussion any new developments can be held before the 13th summit is convened.

Responding to a question on relations with Iran, Rashid bin-'Abdallah said that the GCC has a clear message when dealing with all its neighbors—a message based on the true desire to establish sound good-neighborly relations with everyone, including Iran.

The minister asserted that the GCC states are still carrying this message and that the door remains open to the establishment of such relations, which are considered a basic mission in the work of the GCC based on love, cooperation, stability, and peace in the region.

Rashid bin-'Abdallah said that the UAE has great hope and a true desire to solve the problem of Iran's occupation of Tunb al-Kubra [Greater Tunb] and Tunb al-Sughra [Smaller Tunb], and remains committed to the agreement on Abu Musa Island by way of available avenues provided by international law and legitimacy.

Regarding joint Arab action to achieve solidarity, Rashid bin-'Abdallah said that the UAE is making great efforts in this respect. He noted the continuous calls by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan, the head of state, to achieve true Arab solidarity based on sincere commitments.

The foreign affairs minister also pointed out that these relations were impaired following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Moreover, certain states did not make any

significant effort to clarify their position on this issue and put the rest of the Arab states at ease.

Rashid bin-'Abdallah said that the GCC states cannot deal with the previous bases that exposed an impurity in inter-Arab relations.

He called for a new method of Arab dealing based on clear commitments, noting that the GCC states did not sense such commitment when appealing to the Arab League Charter. Consequently, they are not ready to repeat such mistakes. In this regard, he stressed the need to establish sound inter-Arab relations based on sound mutual commitments.

The minister added: With such a new method of Arab dealing we, in the Gulf and the Arab homeland, can be reassured of the existence of pan-Arab security. When this pan-Arab security was put to the test and when the Gulf states were faced with a great ordeal, certain Arab brothers began to cast doubts on their commitments to the Arab's collective defense pact.

Concluding his statements, Rashid bin-'Abdallah said that despite all this, the hearts are open and an Arab is destined to meet his Arab brother, regardless of estrangement, expressing his hope that Arabs would close their ranks after rectifying the wrong positions.

Other Topics Addressed*LD2511185992 Riyadh SPA in English
1241 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 25, SPA—The 45th GCC ministerial council resumed today its meeting to hold further consultations on the agenda of the 13th GCC summit conference, due to be held in Abu Dhabi next month.

Speaking at the inaugural session last night Rashid bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, highlighted the great efforts exerted by Kuwait to make the session successful.

"Cohesion and solidarity of the sons of the region constitute a solid base for security and stability," he said.

He noted that the Gulf Cooperation Council has been positively contributing to the settlement of a number of Arab and international problems and said the GCC has earned the respect of the world.

The 13th summit conference comes as a supplementary to the previous summit conferences and all are hopeful that it will realize the ambitions of the GCC nations as well as those of the Arabs and Muslims, he said. He noted that the agenda of the GCC summit conference includes a number of political, security and economic topics.

Rashid pointed out that the unified economic agreement will enhance economic cooperation and integration among the member states and pave the way for the establishment of a Gulf common market.

On Damascus declaration, signed by the GCC member states, Syria and Egypt, Rashid said it constitutes a sincere translation to the concept of Arab security and forms a solid nucleus for the joint Arab work.

He noted that the GCC is keen on realization of permanent peace in the Middle East in a way that preserves the rights of the Palestinians and enhances the pillars of peace and security in the region.

Rashid called on the United Nations to practice pressure on Israel until it complies with the international resolutions.

Rashid underscored the importance of fruitful cooperation with the Islamic countries that recently gained independence.

He deplored the Iraqi procrastinations regarding the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council on the release of the prisoners of war and payment of reparations.

On the UAE-Iranian dispute over Greater Tunb and Smaller Tunb and Abu Musa islands, Rashid called on the Iranian government to abide by the agreement pertaining to Abu Musa Island. It is hoped that the problem of sovereignty over the islands will be soon settled, he said.

For his part, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, underscored the importance of the conference and said it comes while the countries of the region pass through critical circumstances.

"We should double our efforts to confront dangers and challenges to security, particularly emerging challenges of the Iraqi regime," he said.

He noted that the Iraqi regime has not complied with U.N. resolutions pertaining to the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and demarcation of Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders.

The failure of Iraq to comply with the international resolutions has provided a clear evidence for its aggressive policy, he said.

He called for enhancing relations among the GCC member states and praised the support extended to Kuwait by them during the Iraqi occupation.

Shaykh al-Jabir called for ending the ordeal of the Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He noted that relations with Iran are based on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic affairs of the others. Referring to Damascus declaration, he said it constitutes an ideal formula for the new Arab order. He reiterated the attention given by the GCC member states to the Arab-Israeli dispute and called for bringing about a just settlement for the dispute in the light of the principle of peace in return for land.

He also called for supporting the Somalian people.

Bahrain

Petition Calls for Elected National Assembly

PM2511122492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 21-22 Nov 92 pl

[Unattributed report: "Signed by Men of Religion and Politicians, Bahraini Petition Calls for Elected Parliament"]

[Text] London—Some public figures and representatives of various political trends in Bahrain have urged Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to start implementing the suspended articles of the Constitution related to the election of a national assembly (parliament) similar to the one dissolved in 1975.

This came in a petition submitted to the amir of Bahrain and signed by over 150 figures representing most ideological and political trends and described as the "first joint action of its kind in Bahrain."

It is known that the Bahraini Government is preparing to announce an appointed consultative council. The announcement is scheduled to be made by the amir on 16 December, the country's national day.

The petition said that "if the dissolution of the national assembly on 26 August 1975 by Amiri Decree No. 14/1975 is in accordance with the powers vested in your highness under Article 65, then that very same article states emphatically that a new assembly should be elected not later than two months after the dissolution date, otherwise the dissolved assembly would regain its full constitutional powers. Article 108 of the Constitution states that none of its provisions should be suspended except under martial law and within the limits of the law. That was not the case when the assembly was dissolved."

It added "therefore, and in view of the local, regional, and international changes over the past years and the international inclination to create a new world order, and if Article 65 of the Constitution is not going to be applied, then a new national assembly should be elected by direct free ballot in accordance with the Constitution, so that the state would put its democratic system into practice in accordance with Paragraph D of Article 1 which stipulates that the rule in Bahrain is democratic and that sovereignty is for the people who are the source of all powers. The exercise of sovereignty should be in accordance with the Constitution."

The petition also said that "the national assembly, as a constitutional legislative assembly, would not be in conflict with what has recently been said about the government's intention to create a consultative council to increase its scope for consultation, but the consultative council is not a substitute for the national assembly as a constitutional legislative authority."

The petition concluded "we hope that your highness will grant this popular request which is in everyone's interest."

The signatories of the petition included the following well-known figures: Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif Mahmud al-Mahmud (a Sunni religious scholar and Bahrain University professor), Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Mansur al-Jumri (a Shiite religious scholar and member of the dissolved national assembly), Muhammad Jaber al-Sabah (a Sunni nationalist and former member of the dissolved national assembly), Hamid Saqr (a Shiite nationalist and well-known lawyer), 'Isa al-Jawdar (a Sunni religious figure), and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Husayn (a Shiite social organizer).

Kuwait

Minister: Nuclear Weapons Threaten Regional Peace

LD2711122492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1100 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Nov—In a press statement published here today, Kuwaiti Defense Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salem warned that the possession of dangerous nuclear weapons by a state in the region would threaten the security of that vital region and might lead to the break out of another war. In his statement to the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA, Shaykh 'Ali stressed that Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states wished to live on the bases of good-neighborliness and ties of the Islamic religion with Iran. He pointed out that the sincere intentions demonstrated by the GCC states towards Iran confirmed the credibility of the endeavor.

Further Reaction to King Husayn Statements

Husayn's 'Shameful Stance' Cited

LD2511144602 Kuwait Radio Kuwait
in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The follower of the recent series of statements and speeches delivered by the so-called king of Jordan deduces an important fact: That the king of Jordan knows that he has reached the end of the line, that he is on the verge of leaving the spotlight—he is in Jordan or in the Arab world—and that he must defend his existence and his image, which has become distorted and stained due to his shameful stance toward the Iraqi aggression on our beloved homeland, which has always been in the forefront of the honest countries that sided with Jordan when time gave it the cold shoulder.

The ruler of Jordan has confirmed, through the statements and speeches he gave to attract sympathy and restore his lost dignity, that he is the best successor to the best ancestor of the rulers of Jordan who betrayed Arab causes under the cloak of defending them and working in their favor.

The king of Jordan condemns himself by his own words when he said in his speech before the last—which his misleading mass media reported—that he will always preserve the legacy of his predecessors who cheated the Arab nation and who told him that they considered themselves to be a link in a continuous chain of those who cheated the nation, and that they expect him to be a new, strong link in that chain.

Yes, the so-called the king of Jordan has sided with those who cheated the Arab nation by supporting the aggression of the Iraqi regime, and by supporting the falsehood of the Baghdad regime that attempted to erase the identity of an Arab people of this nation's peoples, which the ruler of Jordan and his cheap propaganda trumpets claim to be in the service of its causes. That people is our noble people, who have always generously supported that ruler who is skilled in jumping on the ropes and falsifying the historical and political facts to correspond with his lies and vanities, the most prominent of which is the so-called white paper by which he blackened the shining face of the truth confirming our just right. The ruler of Jordan tried through his statements to obfuscate and distort the truth, just as he had habitually distorted the efforts and attempts of fraternal Arab countries to contain the subject of the treacherous Iraqi invasion in an Arab framework and to settle the situation peacefully. But by cooperating with the ruler of Baghdad, he rejected that, and began to make misleading statements which confirmed his collusion with the Iraqi regime and which corroborated his twisted stances.

Anyone who peruses these statements and speeches will clearly discover the falsehood of the claims made by the so-called king of Jordan, namely that he was working for settling the crime of the treacherous invasion from a neutral position, which in this case meant silence. The ruler of Jordan was a mute devil toward our just right, though he was not mute toward the aggression of the Baghdad regime. In fact, he was so base and inhumane as to feign trying to settle the problem, when in fact his real objective was to stall for time in order to allow the forces of aggression to gain a foothold in our beloved homeland and to face the world with a fait accompli.

The stance of the ruler of Jordan was immoral, in addition to being a grave political error because it was not a question of a dispute between an Arab and a foreign country but one of a treacherous Arab aggression against an Arab state which had expected that those it had supported in their crimes would stand by it. However, the King of Jordan betrayed the trust of the situation and stabbed the principle of Arab solidarity which he so often talked about.

The ruler of Jordan had tried to be neutral, as he claimed, in his stance on the crime of the aggression. But scrutiny into the atmosphere which reigned in Jordan during the aggression proves the falsehood of that claim and establishes that he was indeed in collusion with the ruler of Baghdad. His media stood by the aggression, hailed it and ignored the harsh suffering of our loyal

people at the hands of the aggressor forces of the Iraqi regime. He also staged demonstrations in support of the aggression against the holy region to which he had so often resorted for succor from his debts.

The recent statements and speeches of the so-called king of Jordan confirm that he has become convinced that the era of his tricks and lies has gone, that he fears the end, and that these lies cannot deceive anyone on the evidence of his return to the cheap style in attacking those who stood beside him.

The ruler of Jordan has realized that there is no role for him in the Arab arena, or even in his country. He therefore started to lose his balance and to direct, together with his propaganda trumpets, insults and criticisms, once his game was discovered and his hostile position and standing beside aggression ascertained.

In conclusion we say that history will pass its just sentence on this ruler.

Paper Warns Against 'Pythons'

LD2511145192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0920 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Nov (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti paper has called on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states to show solidarity with one another, and to strengthen cooperation between them to face up to the dangers that still lie in wait for the peoples of the region, particularly after the recent statements of the king of Jordan, which exposed the ostentatious manner that he still bears to the states of the region.

In its editorial, the paper AL-BIYASAH warns the GCC member states that "the pythons have retreated to their holes but they are not dead. They are waiting for any upheaval in the land to get out of their hiding places to pounce to the right and left." The paper stresses that "only cooperation is capable of facing up to such dangers."

The paper emphasized that Husayn's mockery regarding those whom he calls "the oil Bedouin Arabs," i.e. the peoples of the GCC member states, is evidence of his incompetence and the failure of his attempts to find a scapegoat for his mistakes and the burden of his sufferings. The paper stresses that belonging to "the Bedouin Arabs establishment" is a great honor for the peoples of this region and its rulers, because it is a proof of belonging to this land, which is the cradle of religions and messengers. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on GCC Security Plan

FM2511170292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Nov 92 p2

[Faris al-Salman report: "'Ali Salim al-Sabah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Defense Ministers Have Approved Security Plan and Peninsula Shield Exercise Program"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah has confirmed that a program for Peninsula Shield military exercises will be announced soon.

He said that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers studied a security plan and approved three points. They are: intrinsic buildup of the Arab Gulf states' military forces, making the Peninsula Shield the nucleus of the Gulf military force, and raising the size of that force to 100,000 men after 15 years.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Shaykh 'Ali admitted that there was no way of stopping Iraqi infiltrators who try to enter the country from time to time. He said the United States has the same problem with Cubans, Mexicans, and Canadians who repeatedly try to enter the United States. He added: "But we will do our best to check such attempts." On the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry's budget, Shaykh 'Ali said that there is a \$3.5 billion supplementary budget but the annual budget is \$400 million. He stressed that the budget includes purchase of arms and other provisions.

Regarding citizenship for those in the defense ministry "with no specific nationality," Shaykh 'Ali said that the state's competent authorities were studying the matter. He said that military personnel with no specific nationality who returned to military service had to go through three committees of expert Kuwaiti officers who ascertained the loyalty of them all. Those not accepted, he said, were either collaborators who were not even considered by the committees or people whose efforts for Kuwait failed to convince the committees.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Lithuania

JN2511192492 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1230 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and the Republic of Lithuania have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

A joint statement issued in Doha and Vilnius today said that in line with the mutual desire of the Governments of the State of Qatar and the Republic of Lithuania to bolster and develop their bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, they have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2511211492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2005 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 23, SPA—King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired here today a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, in a statement to SPA, said in the context of constant consultations between the kingdom and its sister and friendly nations for pursuing its constructive role in all political, economic, security, philanthropic and humanitarian field, King Fahd acquainted the Council on the outcome of his meetings and talks last week including messages received by him from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, King Hassan of Morocco, Abdel Dief of Senegal and Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan, in addition to his meetings with the French external relations minister and the German economy minister.

The talks, al-Sha'ir said, covered many international, Islamic and Arab issues of concern to the kingdom. The Saudi monarch reaffirmed the kingdom's role which aims at the support of all Arab and Islamic causes as well as boosting peace and justice in the region, al-Sha'ir said.

The Council discussed a number of local issues which the king presented for discussion and listened to the explanations on them made by the concerned ministers. The issues included opening of new jobs for the new Saudi graduates in all fields. In this connection, King Fahd stressed the need to bring up the Saudi youth strictly according to the Islamic faith and inculcate in them the noble ethics and virtues. The Council looked into some local issues on its agenda and took appropriate decisions on them.

As per the directives of the king and according to what has been presented by the higher education minister concerning the remuneration paid to under training physicians and interns, the Council approved the payment of a lump sum remuneration of SR [Saudi riyals] 10,700 to them. This remuneration supersedes any previous arrangement and the trainees and interns shall be treated according to the civil service regulations in terms of over-time work and transportation allowance. The Council approved appointments at the 14th grade at the

Ministry of Education and the General Presidency for Commendation of Virtue and Condemnation of Vice.

Yemen

Arrest Warrants Issued for Suspected Bombers

PM2411161992 London AL-HAYAH
in Arabic 23 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sanaa: Warrants to Arrest Nine People Accused of Taking Part in Recent Explosions"]

[Text] Sanaa, AL-HAYAH—On Saturday evening [21 November] the Yemeni Interior and Security Ministry issued warrants for the arrest of nine people on charges of participating in a number of the violent incidents the country has experienced since its unification in May 1990.

The ministry announced the names of the nine defendants, who are all Yemenis. They are: Amin Husayn al-Salehi, Fayal Ahmad Jazaylen al-Radumani, 'Ali Majmal al-Salehi, Salih Ben-'Ali Dihmish, Salih 'Abdallah Mushan, Najib Husayn al-Salehi, Salih Hasan al-Dumaji, Muhammad Sinan al-Qabali, and 'Ali 'Abdub al-Salehi.

The Interior and Security Ministry allocated a 1 million riyal reward for anyone helping to secure the arrest of any of them. It urged all citizens to cooperate with the competent security authorities to that end "in order to serve public welfare and safeguard security and stability so that justice can take its course."

AL-HAYAH has learned from a senior party source that those accused of assassinating Engineer al-Huraybi and blowing up the second floor of the home of Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the House of Representatives, are hiding in the capital, Sanaa, and in suburbs.

***Aziz Replies to UNSC Report**

JN2511133792 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1227 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz has said that there are certain parties at the UN Security Council who want to give a tendentious impression that Iraq has not implemented many of the obligations imposed on it.

In a statement last night, in reply to the fallacies contained in [UN Security Council President] Andre Erdos' statement, published by Iraqi newspapers here today, Tariq Aziz added that these parties use this tendentious impression to justify the continuation of the blockade.

He explained: Despite the unjust and arbitrary nature of Resolution 687, and the other resolutions, Iraq has fulfilled the obligations imposed on it, particularly those essential obligations, foremost being those related to the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

He added: During the previous meeting, which was held in March, the UN Security Council president presented a statement which included what he called "the general and the specific obligations imposed on Iraq." During this meeting, the council used the same method. What is the objective behind using this method, especially since it was repeated during this meeting? The new statement does not include even an updating of the previous statement despite what was implemented during the past eight months. The statement was almost a repeat of the previous one to give the tendentious impression that no progress has been achieved. The objective of this method is clear. It is to distract attention from essential issues, particularly the continued crime which is being perpetrated against the people of Iraq, the crime of the unjust blockade which has been imposed on it for more than two years.

During our last meeting in March, we presented clarifications supported with evidence regarding all the issues which were included in the council president's report. Many of these issues were repeated in this new statement.

There are certain parties in the Council which want to give an impression that Iraq has not implemented many of the commitments imposed on it. They are using this tendentious impression to justify the continuation of the embargo. This is not the truth. The truth is that Iraq, despite the unjust and arbitrary nature of Resolution 687 and other resolutions, has fulfilled the commitments imposed on it, particularly the essential ones headed by those related to the unjust economic embargo imposed on Iraq. I will, as I did last March, deal with the points cited in the statement of the Council's president. Before I embark on the details, I would like to emphasize the fact I mentioned in my statement to the Council. It is the fact that the Council, while enumerating the commitments imposed on Iraq, is deliberately ignoring its commitments toward the people of Iraq and the state of Iraq as stipulated by Resolution 687 itself as well as the UN

Charter and international law. No mention of the Council's commitments toward Iraq were at all noted in the statement of the Council's president.

1. The topic of borders: This issue is well known to the Council members and the world public opinion as well as states in the region. The entire issue, as noted in the Iraqi foreign minister's letter dated 13 July 1992, is a political decision dictated by the powers, particularly the governments of the United States and Britain, which are today manipulating the Security Council and the United Nations. The political purpose of this decision is clear. It is not only meant to deprive Iraq of its rights or harm its vital interests, but also to deliberately create a state of instability in the region to justify the continued presence of the U.S. and British Armed Forces and military bases in order to continue to blackmail the existing regimes and plunder their oil wealth. This is what it is all about, and this is not the opinion of Iraq only. It is also the opinion of several states and leaders in the region as well as observers who have a feeling of responsibility toward the affairs of this region.

In view of this unjust and arbitrary behavior toward Iraq's legitimate interests and historical rights as confirmed by facts and historical documents, which were discussed with absolute clarity in the foreign minister's letter of 21 May 1992, we decided not to participate in the commission's work because Iraq's opinion was not heard in the commission despite our objective and constructive contribution in its work over a long period of time. Our participation or non-participation in the commission's work is therefore the same: the decision was taken in advance and there was determination to impose it.

The resignation of Muktar Kassem [name as received], chairman of the commission, reveals part of this truth and this scandal. The Security Council can neither prevent talk about history nor change historical facts. Does the new world order prohibit talk about history?

2. Commitments related to weapons: The statement by the Security Council president in this regard cited Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15. I will address this issue in detail at the end of my statement.

3. The issue of missing persons: This issue was raised during the previous meeting, and we clarified it positively and constructively, and noted that Iraq has done all it can to ascertain the fate of those missing people, and that Iraq is remains ready to do all it can in this regard.

However, saying that Iraq is holding Kuwaitis is a tendentious and false accusation. Iraq has no interest in doing such a thing. The truth is that Iraq holds no such people and this issue is part of a propaganda campaign, similar to the story of [Kuwaiti babies being removed from] the incubators.

I affirm to the Security Council that Iraq does not hold any Kuwaiti or other nationals. A fierce war took place.

and those who launched the war named it Desert Storm. In this storm, many people were killed and L-5 missing. Iraq is not responsible for those who were killed during the storm or for those who are still missing. Those who were responsible for the storm are the ones to blame. We will continue to cooperate with the Red Cross.

When several delegates wondered about the missing persons and about Iraq's rejection, the answer is clear. [sentence as received] There are no detention camps in Iraq, but only prisons, just like any other nation. We have not objected, even though the correct way would be to provide us with files on the missing people containing accurate information. We have received only a few files and these do not match with the number of people they have reported missing. In cooperation with the Red Cross and the Arab League, we have replied to these files and will receive an Arab League envoy in the coming days.

Regarding what was contained in Paragraph 18 and 19 of the Security Council president's statement under the headline "Iraq's Obligations Under International Law," I commented on this issue in my statement last March to the Security Council, and I have nothing to add on this issue. Just to emphasize the facts, I will quote from my statement of last March: The Security Council knows that Iraq has accepted the resolutions dealing with this aspect. What is worth noting in this regard is that pertinent provisions of the Security Council's resolutions stipulate Iraq's responsibility under international law. This necessitates observing the rules of international law when implementing the resolutions, so that passing final judgment on claims for compensation resulting from international responsibility will be based on international legal rules and provisions, which dispense fairness and justice.

What should be reiterated here is that the claims must not be unreal, vengeful, or used as a method to score financial gains by giving people the freedom to make claims rather than limiting them. Iraq is not represented, in any fashion whatsoever, in the body which will discuss these claims. In our understanding, this is not in harmony with international law or with previous cases of this type which highlight the basic importance of legal principles. These principles call for underlining the clear relationship between the wrongdoing and the damage. Reparation is the direct effect of liability and should be equal to the size of the wrongdoing and damage. International law does not allow one party to impose these things because justice requires evidence; evidence which cannot be arrived at without the representation of parties directly involved.

Concerning Paragraph 21 of the Security Council president's statement under the headline: "Repaying Iraq's Former Debts and Their Services," I reiterate what I said in March: How can Iraq pay back this debt and its interest while it remains under a comprehensive embargo? I say here that Iraq honors its commitments toward its creditors. However, Iraq cannot repay these

debts and the interest if the embargo is not lifted and if it is not allowed to export its oil and return to its normal economic activity. A long time ago, we informed a number of countries that we are ready to repay their debts with quantities of crude oil. As far as I know, at least one country, maybe more, contacted the Council and Sanctions Committee asking them to agree that Iraq repay its debts with quantities of crude oil. The sanctions committee, however, did not discuss these requests. Iraq, therefore, does not shoulder any responsibility in this regard, but it will continue to honor its commitments to its creditors.

With regard to the Russian delegation saying that Iraq seized equipment belonging to foreign companies, this is incorrect, because Iraq informed these countries that some of their equipment will be used properly.

6. [sentence as received] With regard to the issue of returning property mentioned in Paragraph 23 of the Security Council president's statement, I would like to explain to the Council that what came at the end of the paragraph—that a lot of property, including military equipment and private property, has not been returned—is absolutely incorrect and reflects the statement's inaccuracy. I would like to note to the Council that from last March until 25 October 1992, the Kuwaiti regime was given four Skyhawk planes, one dual plane model 883, spare parts for Kuwait Airways planes, 60 naval units, property belonging to the Health Ministry of the Kuwaiti regime, property and spare equipment belonging to that regime's Air Force, special equipment belonging to the Ministries of Information and Social Affairs, as well as property belonging to the Housing and Construction Ministry and Planning Institute, and spare parts belonging military aircraft. It is worth noting that this equipment and property were delivered in more than one operation at Iraqi airports and other delivery sites. Arrangements are under way to establish a new delivery point to the south of Safwan where remaining military weapons and hardware can be handed over in a very short time.

As for personal property, the person who prepared the Council statement should have known that as of yet no demand has been presented in Iraq concerning the return of personal property.

With respect to Paragraph 25 and 26 of the president's statement on international terrorism, I would like to make the following remarks: First, these paragraphs are a repetition of the president's statement of last March. What we said on that occasion should have been enough so that our statements would not have to be repeated because the facts regarding this subject are clear, unless of course the intention was to raise more issues that have nothing to do with the real situation. Nevertheless, I would like to emphasize what I said in my statement last March, that Iraq has never, at any time, carried out terrorist operations, and there is no evidence whatsoever that Iraq has participated in any such operations.

As for Paragraph 27 of the president's statement concerning Council Resolutions 706 and 712, I would like to repeat what I said last March on the same paragraph. Namely, that the two resolutions have not been adopted to solve some of the Iraqi people's suffering, but were adopted to realize tendentious political objectives and to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. In three rounds of talks with the United Nations, we have tried to reach reasonable arrangements that meet our people's urgent humanitarian needs while keeping away from tendentious political aspects. However, we have not realized any results because the Council's influential powers, those who drafted these two resolutions in the first place, have aborted the efforts and exerted pressure on certain UN employees, who had exhibited some understanding for Iraq's legitimate and practical considerations, to make them retract their positions.

Anyhow, discussion of these two resolutions, after all the commitments have been met—commitments imposed in accordance with Resolution 687 on the economic siege—is nothing more than an attempt to draw attention away from the main issue, namely, the lifting of the economic siege. This is the only real way to address the suffering of the Iraqi people.

As for the president's statement on Council Resolution 668, I would like to recall what I said last March, that we viewed, and still view, this resolution as blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs. On that occasion, I explained to you in detail that despite this principled position, we agreed at that time with the Sadruddin Aga Khan, the executive envoy of the secretary general, to conclude the first and second memorandum of understanding. You also know that a third memorandum of understanding was concluded on 22 October, to which Iraq is committed and is cooperating with the United Nations to implement in a constructive manner. Still, let us ask: Where is the UN implementation of its pledge to extend assistance to all of Iraq in accordance with the memorandum? What is the meaning of the lack of financial resources from which the UN program is suffering, and which prevents the program's implementation? Was this the result of the success in reaching an objective and balanced agreement that secures the joint objectives of the two parties? Have you forgotten who was the one who attacked the text of the memorandum of understanding, and tried to obstruct its realization? Was not the actual reason that this text represents a humanitarian program free of political motives?

Having explained the other points contained in the chairman's report, I would like to now discuss the part dealing with weapons, which have been referred to in the statements of Blix, (T'Ekon), the Council chairman, and several delegates. What applies to this part also applies to many other parts of the statement, in terms of being a compilation of outdated points aimed at creating the impression that the subject has not witnessed any mentionable progress. This provides clear evidence of deliberate deceit.

Before anything else, we should point out that a major portion of this part of the statement is nothing more than a repetition of provisions that have been included in pertinent UN Security Council resolutions. Perhaps repeating such provisions is aimed purely at prolonging the statement to complete the picture of deliberate deception. To this, two essential remarks should be added:

First: The references to previous reports of the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency have deliberately ignored reference to subsequent measures and actions. Second, references to statements issued by the Council on certain events have deliberately ignored the basic fact that such events have been resolved through cooperation and joint understanding between UN officials and competent Iraqi authorities, and that such events have not been repeated.

I ask: Why this inaccuracy and carelessness in presenting the facts? We are here at the Council to deal with a vital issue that concerns the life of a people and a UN member state. Is this fair? Is this the required honesty? Gentlemen, you demand compliance from Iraq, and Iraq is complying. However, up to this very moment, you have not faced Iraq with the degree of professional accuracy needed for deepening cooperation and mutual understanding.

Let me now, Mr. Chairman, be more specific. Your statement has not referred to the substantial achievements that have been realized in the field of implementing Part C of Resolution 687. In my statement, I have explained these achievements in detail. They have also been contained in the factual report that the foreign minister sent along with his letter dated 19 November 1992.

In my statement, I described the conduct of several inspection teams. To be honest, we have found two types of inspection teams: The first type is the one we described in the statement, which comes to make trouble and uses provocative methods which infringe on the sovereignty of the country and the dignity of its people. The other type comes and accomplishes its missions in a professional manner, without any problems.

We have dealt with the first type, which included elements assigned by certain parties to create problems and craves to achieve tendentious political objectives, in a manner striking a balance between our objective of preserving the country's sovereignty and containing the fabricated problems to deny them the opportunity to achieve their tendentious political objectives. We have succeeded in containing many problems and turning the mission's work toward a professional and technical approach linked to the objectives of Resolution 687. Also, we have dealt seriously and objectively with the other type of inspection team, that which performs its mission professionally and without problems. Iraqi experts did their utmost to provide for them all the requirements necessary to perform their job, and

answered all their questions during dozens of hours of joint discussions. The objective heads of these missions confirmed, in their own public statements, the Iraqi authorities' positive and constructive cooperation.

The commendation in the president's statement on the negative aspects which were overcome was meant to cement the positive side of the achievements made.

Another thing about the president's statement would be the claims regarding the method of cooperation with the inspection missions. Making such claims also reflects a tendentious approach. To be honest with you, gentlemen, since honesty in some cases is the only way to make a first step along the right path, the people of Iraq feel that the United Nations is responsible for the bitter suffering they are experiencing by imposing and maintaining the blockade on them. This is because the Iraqi people firmly believe now that everything that has happened to them was done under UN cover. These bitter feelings toward the United Nations are an established fact that is felt by every fair visitor. Therefore, it is impossible to control the feelings of citizens who are suffering as a result of the crime of human genocide, represented by the imposition and maintaining of a blockade on them, covering all aspects of human life, some of which I described in my statement.

As for the government authorities in charge, although they suffer, like any other citizen since they are one of them, they are still doing their utmost to provide for the inspection teams and other UN staffers the necessary requirements for their work, and we still adhere to this approach.

The great substantial achievements regarding Section C of Resolution 687 could not have been made were it not for the cooperation shown by Iraqi authorities. This was confirmed by the chairman of the Special Commission and the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The members of the Council made statements yesterday on the following issues:

1. The issue of the Kurds and the alleged siege on the three northern governorates: I explained this issue to you last March. I said that during the four months of talks between the government and the Kurdish parties, including Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani—and I was one of those who participated in these talks—we reached a comprehensive agreement that deals with all issues, such as autonomy and the role of Kurdish parties in the government and the democratic system in Iraq. We also agreed to hold elections for a legislative council in the Kurdistan region.

When we reached the agreement with the delegation of Kurdish parties, led by Mas'ud Barzani, he asked to travel to Baghdad to discuss the agreement with the rest of the leaders. He found that the U.S. Administration had asked the Kurdish leaders to dispatch a Kurdish delegation to Washington. In September 1992, Jalal

Talabani travelled to Washington and met with Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, and then travelled to London.

The U.S. and British Governments exerted pressure on the Kurdish parties not to sign the agreement because—as the British Government believed—this would strengthen the position of the Baghdad government.

There are Kurds living in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria, and a few of them live in the former Soviet Union. Iraq is the only country whose Constitution and laws recognize the national rights of the Kurds, and Iraq is the only country in which Kurds participate in its government; the Iraqi vice president is Kurdish. A Kurdish citizen or minister can act freely as a Kurd. Meanwhile, this is forbidden in other countries. There is a Kurdish television station and a department for Kurdish culture in the Culture and Information Ministry. Neither Turkey, nor Iran, nor Syria recognize any of the Kurds' rights, but still the campaign is against Iraq alone.

I give you an example of the double standards. We spoke yesterday about protecting the Kurds in northern Iraq, and the allied forces are protecting the Kurds against an alleged threat. You all know that a few days ago the Turkish Army entered northern Iraq and bombarded Iraqi Kurds living there with artillery and aerial shells, but the allied forces have done nothing at all.

Regarding the Shites of the marshlands, I said last March that the talk about Shites in Iraq is a paradox about which all the Iraqis are talking because they have not witnessed a conflict similar to what takes place between Catholics and Protestants. What is really taking place is a propaganda campaign with political objectives. In Iraq there are Sunni and Shiite Muslims, Christians, Arabs, and Kurds, and Iraq does not want the sympathy of the colonialist powers that bombarded the Sunnis, Shites, Arabs, and Kurds with more than 100,000 tonnes of bombs. The Iraqi people and their national leadership are united.

Following the allegations voiced by [UN Human Rights Commission rapporteur] Max Van der Stoep on the marshlands, we proposed dispatching a team of wise men to the area where Stoep alleged incidents were taking place, but suddenly the U.S. President decided to protect Iraq's Shites at a time when he does not provide protection to the Lebanese Shites who are exposed to daily Israeli artillery and aerial shelling.

The U.S. ambassador said yesterday that Iraq sends food to the [Iraqi] Army. Unfortunately, this is misleading information because the Council prevents Iraq from selling anything through which it can buy food and medicine. The U.S. side always repeats its silly allegations. Mr. Ambassador, Iraq believes that these allegations are silly because the Army is part of the Iraqi people and the Army likes its leadership, which the U.S. Administration does not. In fact, the Iraqi Army includes 18 million people, because all the Iraqi people defend Iraq's sovereignty, national pride, and rights.

However, eight months after our previous meeting with the Council and despite all that has been realized, what do we see in the Council chairman's statement?

We are repetition of known provisions in the resolutions, a deliberate ignorance of what has been achieved, and inaccuracy in drawing the present picture of cooperation and coordination between Iraqi authorities and the United Nations, such as joint action, the presentation of reports, statements, and data, and providing answers. At what is this deliberate ignorance aimed? Is it anything more than a deliberate attempt to hide substantial facts from the Council and world public opinion, as we said in March and affirmed in our statement before the Council on this occasion? This deliberate concealing of facts targets Iraq, in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. [sentence as received]

We should repeat the question: What about the Council's obligations toward Iraq in accordance with this paragraph? It seems that the Council behaves on the basis that the unjust blockade that has been imposed on Iraq since August 1990 is a natural thing and must continue without any sense of guilt. This is because the Council, up to now, meets every two months only to say, without any responsible or conscientious scrutiny of what has been achieved, that there is nothing new and that the blockade must continue. It seems that some political circles do not feel that the suffering of an entire ancient people, in terms of food, clothes, education, public health, and all aspects of life, deserves a responsible stand that recognizes the facts. This is because such circles have lost conscience.

I reaffirm what I said in my statement and what I said in March, to the effect that this position is inequitable, oppressive and arbitrary. This position must be changed. The Council should implement the responsibilities it specified for itself with regard to the people of Iraq.

As we said last March, we are ready to sit down with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency to complete the few remaining aspects. Let it be known by everybody that Section C of Resolution 687 has been fulfilled. We are ready to sit down and work together to resolve the few pending issues in a final and complete manner. However, it should be clear that fulfilling such a task must be linked to the Security Council's fulfillment of its obligations to lift the unjust blockade on Iraq and remove the unjust exceptional measures which infringe on Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, and undermine its legitimate right to live as a free, independent nation. Anything said to the contrary means that the Security Council is a body that does not set any store by its own documents, that it is not trustworthy, and that it is only a very poor embodiment of absolute international power based on the logic of force and arbitrariness.

I hope we will continue our meetings to reach a better understanding between Iraq and the Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets UN's Butrus Ghali, Ekam

JN2511211292 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2015 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] United Nations, 25 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here today with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with Rafi Ekaw, head of the Special Commission in charge of inspecting [word indistinct] weapons.

The two meetings were attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sabbah and members of the delegation accompanying the deputy prime minister.

Tariq 'Aziz met last night with the nonaligned members of the Security Council. He explained to them Iraq's viewpoint on Iraq-related issues being discussed at the Security Council.

Statement Issued Condemning UN Embargo Extension

JN261102092 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0826 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The United Nations, 26 Nov (INA)—Iraq has condemned the Security Council's continued failure to honor its obligations toward the Iraqi people and its passing of an unfair judgment on the country.

An INA New York correspondent quoted a press statement issued by the Iraqi permanent mission at the United Nations yesterday evening as saying that the Security Council, for the 10th time, renews the unfair economic embargo on Iraq. The statement indicated that the Council did not honor its obligations, which are enshrined in its resolutions, the UN Charter, and the principles of justice and ethics, during the brief consultations it held the day before yesterday.

The statement went on to say: The Security Council passed its unfair judgment after it listened to the ambassadors of only four permanent members of the Council, namely, the United States, Britain, France, and Russia. Afterward, the Council decided to prolong the suffering of the Iraqi people and expose them to starvation, thus disavowing their most basic human rights.

In its statement, the Iraq mission expressed amazement over the Security Council's failure to honor its obligations toward Iraq, even though it acknowledged only one day before the issuance of its decision that Iraq had taken positive measures to honor its obligations.

The statement recalled the remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz before the Security Council on Monday to the effect that irrespective of what Iraq does in the way of honoring the obligations imposed on it, the unfair decision to starve the Iraqi people and deny them the right to life remains unchanged because this is the wish of some influential governments represented in the Security Council.

Paper Assault Embargo Extension

JN2611083802 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has affirmed that the recent UN Security Council's decision to extend economic sanctions on Iraq puts the ball once again in the court of the Security Council after it has made the final mistake of employing double standards.

In an article published by the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today, the writer, Talib Sa'dun, warns that Iraq will not accept at all any act aimed at undermining its sovereignty and dignity, either through the imposition of decisions or through attempts to make it accept a policy based on the employment of double standards.

The writer affirms that by making this decision, the Security Council has provided additional evidence to show that it is the influential powers at the Council, rather than the Council itself, which made this decision. These powers, the writer adds, have used the Council as a tool to achieve their aim of perpetuating the conflict so as to undermine Iraq and its economic and intrinsic capabilities.

The Iraqi political writer goes on to say: Each and every fair-minded person is well aware that the Council was pushed to make premeditated judgments, which had been prepared in advance, even before the Council began its meetings and before it listened to the statements and remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Concluding his article, the writer says: By extending the embargo, the Security Council has sidestepped the facts pertaining to Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations and trampled on its declared principles. It has thus taken a serious and unprecedented move, proving that all its resolutions are devoid of any ethical or legal grounds.

Rebels Reportedly Try To Kill Justice Minister

JN2711083792 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellion Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] In response to the oppressive and unacceptable practices of the gangs of treachery against defenseless citizens nationwide, our mujahidin carried out a [word indistinct] operation against one of the [word indistinct] regime elements on the road near [name indistinct] in the rebellious al-Nasiriyah Governorate a few days ago.

Our revolutionaries laid an ambush on the road leading to [name indistinct] and managed to implement God's punishment on the criminal, who holds the rank of commissioner, after [words indistinct]. Our military sources did not name the killed mercenary, but they labelled him as a spy and a traitor who sold out his conscience [words indistinct] the 'Affagien and [words indistinct] on the sons of the regime, who determined to kill him as punishment.

Our (reliable) military sources have stressed that the explosion implemented by our mujahid groups in the past few days destroyed the building of the [name indistinct] court in the heroic city of al-'Amarah. The explosion also destroyed many documents and records containing information on the mujahidin and their jihad operations. The court's Saddamite president and public attorney were killed in the operation.

Our mujahidin planned to destroy the court and kill criminal Shabib al-Maliki, minister of justice in the tyrant's regime. He was in al-'Amarah Governorate at the time, but he missed the people's punishment because he was 15 minutes late.

Regime Held To Deploy Troops in Southern Areas

JN2611172992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] A source of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) has said that the Iraqi regime is continuing to deploy troops in Iraq's southern areas. The source said that the regime has probably deployed three armored and infantry divisions and many surface-to-air missiles in various positions in the south.

The same source said that the regime's men are [word indistinct] water in the region and that its forces have been placed on a maximum state of preparedness to launch a wide-scale offensive against the marshlands.

Kurdish Military Commander Assesses Fighting

JM2511124092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
23 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Interview with "a prominent Kurdish military commander known as Kanar, member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Political Bureau," by Kamran Qureshi Dagh in Ankara on 19 November]

[Text] [Dagh] Can you tell us what happened during the fighting as you saw it?

[Kanar] We fought against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) because of its refusal to comply with the decision issued by the parliament and government in the Iraqi Kurdistan province. Two joint forces were formed from the prisoners belonging to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party: One on the Khawakurk [in transliterated] (the Turkey-Iraq-Iran triangle) front and the other on the Zakhu front on the border with Turkey. The first was led by Mustafa Tashaweh (Patriotic Union) and the second by Fadil Mayran (Democratic Party).

After 18 days of fighting on the Khawakurk front Uncle Jalal (Kurdish address Jalal Talabani as Uncle Jalal) and the province's government asked me to head for Khawakurk to lead the front in the fortified area in which the PKK's military command base was situated. The fighting continued for another nine days, at the end of which PKK military commander Osman Ocalan

requested a cease-fire on the basis of his acceptance of all the conditions set by the parliament and government in the Kurdistan province.

[Daghi] Turkish scenario said that there was actually no serious fighting and that the Kurdish peshmerga were firing in the air haphazardly. How did you see the situation in the field when you reached the Khawarkut front?

[Kasart] Khawarkut is a rugged mountainous area which is vast. PKK fighters had been there since 1985 when those areas were supposed to be under the Iraqi forces' control. They set up powerful bases there. The area has three borders and is linked to Turkish and Iranian territories. When I arrived in the area peshmerga forces were engaged in fierce fighting against the PKK. They captured many of them and I saw many bodies among them. I went to the front at the head of an additional 3,000-strong force. We all had experience in mountain fighting against the Iraqi Army. I personally was in charge of all the Kurdistan Front's forces in Irbil Governorate during the March 1990 uprising. And before that we also engaged in fierce fighting against the Iraqi Army in that area and managed in January 1988 to seize (President) Saddam's (Husayn) palace in Sari Rah Shi (as transliterated).

[Daghi] What was the number of the peshmerga forces before you reached the front, and what was the number of PKK fighters?

[Kasart] There were some 6,000 peshmerga fighters. It is difficult to give the accurate total of PKK fighters, because they used to reinforce their ranks all the time with additional fighters: sometimes from Turkish territory, and sometimes from Iranian territory. But after the fighting ended, we learned from them that they had a special force inside Turkish territory totaling 700 fighters led by a PKK Central Committee member called Balakir. It had participated in the fighting but returned to its bases in Turkey.

And finally we succeeded in tightening the circle around them, cutting off their supply routes from Turkey and Iran. We used 125, 130, and 170 mm cannons which we had seized from the Iraqi Army. As a result, they requested a cease-fire.

[Daghi] Would the fighting have ended earlier if PKK fighters had not received supplies from Turkish and Iranian territories?

[Kasart] Most likely yes. Their supplies from Iran were very important, as food supplies were delivered by Iranian helicopters, which used to land at night and carry their wounded away. And they used to reinforce their ranks with new fighters from their Iranian bases.

[Daghi] How many PKK fighters were in north Iraq when the fighting began, and how many joined them from Iran?

[Kasart] I believe around 2,500 fighters on the Khawarkut front and a similar number on the Zakhu front. Khawarkut can be regarded as their main base because it has links with their main base in Orumiyeh, in the west of Iran, from which they received their supplies, and also because of the presence of the command center there.

[Daghi] What was the Turkish Army's role until that stage of the fighting?

[Kasart] There were no Turkish forces in Khawarkut. But I was told that Turkish aircraft bombarded positions in the area twice before my arrival.

[Daghi] Can you specify when the fighting began and ended exactly?

[Kasart] The fighting began on 5 October. I arrived in Khawarkut on 18 October, and the fighting ended nine days later. The agreement was signed between the Kurdistan province government and the PKK leadership on 29 October.

[Daghi] How many PKK fighters do you believe are in Iran?

[Kasart] I do not know, but they have main bases in Gharbi, Azerbaijan.

[Daghi] After you besieged the command center in Khawarkut and they decided to surrender, how were contacts made between the two sides?

[Kasart] By radio. We were almost touching at several points on the front, as I had changed the combat plan and adopted the method of tightening the fighting circle, focusing on the command center, which we designated on the basis of information provided by prisoners. They requested a cease-fire after we launched two intensive offensives on their command center and moved very close to it.

At the beginning, I sent them a delegation which returned accompanied by PKK military commander Osman Ocak and members of his command. They announced their acceptance of the conditions set by the Kurdistan parliament. Then I accompanied them and went to the parliament building in Irbil.

[Daghi] Turkish television showed some pictures in which the fighters still appeared armed. In your view, what will happen to them?

[Kasart] The conditions set by the provinces' government are not secret, and Kurdish public opinion knows of them. I believe that perhaps Turkish television was confused, because the inhabitants of the villages to which PKK fighters were moved are all armed. And the television pictures must have been taken when these fighters arrived in the area and mixed with the inhabitants there.

[Daghi] Reports published in Turkey today (last Thursday) [19 November] indicate that Syrian fighters will return to their country. Is that true?

[Kasur] I left Iraqi Kurdistan two days ago, and I have no information in this connection. However, I know that all of them—the Syrian and Turkish Kurds—are present in the same place.

[Daghi] Turkish reporter Midhat Barakat conducted an interview for Turkish television with Osman Ocak, who said that he and his fighters were not prisoners and that they were free.

[Kasur] When we told them to adhere to the decision of the provinces' parliament, we did not say that we would imprison them. We specifically told them to adhere to the decision by pushing not to launch any attacks from our territory, and that if they accepted this and decided to stay in Iraqi Kurdistan, they would be moved to a specific location remote from the border. So they are not prisoners in the usual sense. What is important is that we are watching them to ensure that they will not violate the agreement. We were very frank and firm with them in connection with their commitment not to move near the border with Turkey.

[Daghi] What is your estimate of the two sides' losses?

[Kasur] Less than 500 PKK fighters were arrested during the fighting. A large number of peshmerga fighters were killed or wounded, and PKK fighters suffered double this number.

[Daghi] We heard that the fighting resulted in, among other things, a heated argument between Abdulla Ocak and his brother Osman—something which observers regard as the beginning of disagreements among PKK ranks. Do you have any information in this connection?

[Kasur] I believe that any military setback in the ranks of any movement or party could lead to disagreements and even splits.

Opposition Leaders Call for Expanded Conference

JN2611183192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People
in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] A number of key Iraqi opposition figures and leaders have called for a new expanded opposition conference to straighten the path and evade the mistakes of the recent Salah-al-Din congress. In a recent statement, they stressed the need for an Iraqi opposition conference to be called by the Salah-al-Din general assembly and attended by all participants and representatives in the Salah-al-Din congress.

The statement, signed by former Finance and Industry Minister Hani Salih Zaki, says it is important to avoid the negative aspects and make the decisions that help opposition forces, factions, and parties achieve their national mission of toppling the regime of tyrant Saddam Hussein and establishing an alternative regime ensuring democracy and pluralism.

In their statement, the key opposition figures and leaders review the mistakes that accompanied the convocation of the Salah-al-Din congress and the huge discrepancy between the current state of affairs and the positive results that every sincere Iraqi expected from the congress, which was meant to be far more important than previous opposition meetings.

Saddam Addresses Arab Dentists' Delegation

JN2611161892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Address by President Saddam Hussein to delegation of Arab dentists on 25 November with comments by unidentified announcers—recorded]

[Text] [Saddam] Praise be to God for providing us with the chance to meet with this elite group of faithful Arabs. Praise be to God because the meeting is taking place in the Baghdad of Arabism, Islam, and faith after all that happened to your Baghdad, and you know what happened. But the will of Almighty God was, as always, stronger than any evil of the vicious ones, and more clever than any power. Therefore, Baghdad rises again, and resumes its historic, faithful, and great role which the faithful Arabs have accorded it since they laid the foundation stones for Baghdad to become the symbol of civilization, faith, Arabism, and Islam.

Praise be to God who has privileged the nation with such an elite group, and with all its depth of faithful Arabs, in order to recall the principles of faith, pride, and good deeds, and to continue the march as their grandfathers used to do, carrying a flag of faith and the sword of righteousness, a pen that writes down and distinguishes between righteousness and evil, and embarking on continuous work to be an example to humanity concerning the objective it should attain.

He who is with the homeland is not a loser, and he who has faith is not a loser. The same is true for the one who is with Arabism and humanity, because Almighty God has always urged [words indistinct]. Nations and peoples pass through difficult circumstances. I say that although I do know how difficult the situation is, deeply-rooted and living nations and peoples will grow stronger. As difficult as the situation is, the instances of weakness in nations are removed. The same is true with the instances of nations that have not been formed in a way that can be described as living nations, or nations able to continue life in accordance with the road of faith.

Your nation is a living one. This is not something that we just decided, it was decided a long time ago. It was decided that this was a living nation thousands of years ago. Your nation used to express the extent of life it contained and its ability to be an example of life through attempts that were made before Islam took hold in certain countries. Islam came to complete the faithful nation, so that the nation would begin its unified march after it believed in monotheism.

Baghdad then became a center of enlightenment, not only for itself and the Arabs alone, but for humanity as a whole. [Word indistinct] our history, we should try to be part of it. When we are sincere in our attempt to be part of it, we should be prepared to confront all obstacles that prevent Baghdad from becoming as it should be, as the Arabs and faithful Muslims all over the world want it to be, and as humanity wants it to be, whenever there is a bridge that brings together the pan-Arab and faithful objectives and humanity.

Baghdad is your Baghdad. We do not call on the Arab, my brother from Tunis, to come to Baghdad, because we are no more than custodians of the Baghdad of Arabism, which was originally established by the faithful Arabs after carrying Islam's banner and glowing torch to this part of the land of Ar-Ruhm and turning it into a capital of the faithful Arab state at that time. May God hail the Arabs in the state of the Arabs. We will be, God willing, loyal to the message, in which you take pride and whose details you recall with pride, as you did today.

We promise you that your people in Iraq will remain faithful, loyal, and honest to the principles, the content, and meaning which you know. Whatever the tyrant does, he will be defeated. Under all circumstances, the faithful head will not bow except to Almighty God. In Baghdad, in Iraq, our people are determined to remain firm and proud of the principles in which they believe. They will not surrender at all, they will not bow except to the right, and they will not kneel to any one except the one God. All the grievance you know about will vanish. Only good deeds will last, blessed by God and the faithful wherever they may be led by the faithful Arabs in their great homeland and our great nation.

May God bless the Arabs, may God bless the Arabs. I am very grateful for your great appreciation. The Iraqi people will be proud of your decision, of this symbolic gesture, whose great meanings we understand; and of this oath in which we take every pride and the meaning of which we, as well as your people, Iraq's people, know. We will preserve all these principles, God willing. I thank you.

[Announcer] After listening to a number of people in the audience who conveyed feelings of support and pure loyalty to Iraq during the aggression to which it was exposed, as well as the joy of the Arab masses, who witnessed or heard about al-Husayn missiles, which were destroying the dens of injustice and evil in occupied Palestine, his excellency made the following comments on their conversations:

[Husayn] I have to say something. Scientific and technological progress is not enough for any country to have its will, and more will is not enough if it is not preceded by deep faith, as it is important to have such a will at any specific historical stage. As you know, we have examples of evidence, examples of a man in a position of weakness and a man in a position of capability. The Soviet Union was one of two superpowers. It had large numbers of

nuclear intercontinental missiles and bombs, in addition to all sorts of technological capability in the military field.

But when faith and political will in it tapered off, it surrendered without fighting. Let us say that the weak will in it surrendered without fighting the West. Logic says that if we take things at face value, it is impossible to conclude that what happened in the Soviet Union had taken place just because of propaganda, or because economic and political theories were borrowed from across the borders.

From this, we can learn a very important lesson about how a great nation can reach a different stage of affairs when it has weak leaders. Weakness does not embody only one condition or basis. Weakness is a state which embodies a variety of conditions and bases, and the same applies to strength. If the components of one of these states does exist, then they will produce a state that is different from the other state. This means that if the components of strength do not exist, then the state of weakness prevails.

You also see other countries and nations which appear to be extremely powerful but which collapse because faith no longer accompanies the requisites of development in these countries' lives.

Every stage of life requires a different approach and requires that faith be ever present. It also needs a political will capable of expressing this within a sound historical course, even if in a certain stage, or stages, it appears that some factors run counter to it.

From this premise, we have to remind ourselves and our people, wherever they are—by the word people, we mean two things: Any Jordanian official can say that Jordan is our people, or he may say that the Arab nation is our people. Any citizen in Baghdad, Tunis, Algiers, or in Palestine can also say this. I repeat and say that we have to remind ourselves and our people, wherever they are, not to base their final decisions on a short term harvest, or short term results. When the citizen decides to assess any of the stages, he must do this on the basis of an assessment of an entire stage in history. If he does not do so, he will lose much.

This also means that we should believe that Palestine will one day return, God willing. Therefore, we must not waste the efforts of the mujahideen in any particular field if these efforts seem to lead to a better situation than the one we are experiencing. This is because the future is for us, I mean for our nation, and not for our enemies. This nation conveyed to mankind the messages of God uninterruptedly. This nation has taught mankind civilization in all its fields so that it can lead a kind of life better than the one to which it was accustomed. It is unreasonable to see this nation defeated by a conspiracy, even if this conspiracy was a big one like the one which was implemented against Palestine when it was usurped from the Arab homeland to establish on it as a deformed entity that has no relationship with legitimacy or right.

Convey my greetings to the Arabs. This is because the citizens might encounter difficulties in this or that country. However, the leaders should not confine themselves to their small environment without taking into consideration the distant future, in terms of sight, action, preparation, and preparedness. Our nation is in good shape despite the painful treason within its ranks. However, there is heroism and readiness to sacrifice within its ranks more than at any time in the past except during its first bright stages in the early beginning of Islam. So, when such readiness exists within its ranks, then the best description of the nation is to say that it is rising again even if some men like Musaylimah or Abu-Lahab [two unfaithful men who lived in the time of the Prophet] exist within its ranks, but it is still rising. The spirit of martyrdom, patience, and the obstinacy of right against falsehood of the stone heroes [the intifadah people] is an unprecedented state of awakening of the nation. Our nation fought with arms, but fighting with stones is a new thing.

The steadfastness of your Baghdad, in the name of God and in your name, in the face of all that has happened, so that it may remain dignified and honorable representing the nation's great concepts, is a new situation. It is a new situation which is comparable to the spirit of the bright situation that prevailed in Islam toward the unified stance of the nation.

Therefore your nation is witnessing an awakening. You should not measure events by depending on the standards of those who were corrupted and became weak in the face of difficulties. Your standards should be drawn from certain events, for example, an 80-year-old woman from Algeria who, during the Mother of Battles, said: Take all my possessions to the army of Arabism in Iraq. You should measure things by such events. You should measure events by the position of every glorious Arab woman who sang when the al-Husayn missiles struck the dens of injustice and tyranny, in the name of God and the nation. You should measure things in accordance with the vision of every Arab who lived the battles as if they were fought at his doorstep, considering his solidarity and burning desire to bear arms by the side of Iraqis, stemming from the concepts of faith and Arabism he holds. These are the measures that you can use to say whether the nation is in good shape or otherwise; to see whether the nation is experiencing an awakening or a deterioration. A deterioration as represented by some rulers and their entourages is a defeated defense of the bad people in the nation. However, the nation is making progress on the path of comprehensive victory, God willing. The victory we are talking about is not simply a military victory when right supports the use of arms. The victory we are talking about, first and foremost, is that we should be faithful enough, in view of the absence of many pillars of living faith, which is a faith that achieves victory for the nation at any given stage.

The Arab nation is all right because it is progressing, and because it has physicians and scientists like you. It also has faithful university professors everywhere. It also has

faithful men and women, with God's help, who work for the nation's prosperity and take pride in any sign of progress or glory achieved by the nation, even if this happens in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, or Yemen. They consider this achievement to be representative of Arab citizens everywhere, regardless of the country in which any particular achievement is made. Giving each country a different name is not a defect in us. They are flags in which we take pride, and are all raised next to the united flag of the Arab nation, which is our big tent under which we all take refuge and for whose banner we cooperate, make efforts, and struggle, God willing.

Convey my regards to the Arabs, men and women, old men and children, wherever they are. May God bless every good endeavor in the service of the Arab nation and humanity. God bless the Arabs. [applause]

Saudis Said Training Smugglers To Damage Economy

JN2211094992 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0805 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the Saudi regime is training Saudi and Kuwaiti elements to prepare them for infiltration into Iraq for espionage purposes and to sabotage the national economy.

The paper, published here today, says that these elements use two smuggling markets on the Iraqi-Saudi border as a place for training on various methods of sabotaging the economy.

The paper says that at the same time, those elements deal with smuggled materials in the al-Safah market, which is considered a training area to acquaint smugglers with the latest methods. It is also frequented by foreign troops deployed in the region to (?purchase) wines and other alcoholic beverages.

The paper says that another market on the Iraqi-Saudi border is specialized in sheep trading. The market offers tempting prices for smugglers and encourages them to sabotage the Iraqi economy.

The paper adds that the customs police in the southern region have apprehended two gangs dealing with smuggled materials in the Saudi al-Safah market, including a woman and number of the most dangerous smugglers in the region.

Ramadan Meets Syrian Opposition Group

JN2611172892 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1310 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has met with the members of the political bureau of the National Front for the Salvation of Syria (NFSS) under front Secretary General Adnan Sa'd al-Din.

Ramadan said during the meeting that the time has come for the pan-Arab and Islamic parties and organizations to unite their struggle to attain the common central goals, and openly escalate the struggle to purge the Arab nation and the Muslims from the agents and the traitors, the allies of the infidels who occupied the Islamic holy places in Arab Palestine.

The vice president said that major objectives are not achieved through silent action or tedious work but through open confrontation and defiance of the agent and treasonous regimes and through the readiness to offer sacrifices. He added that the Mother of Battles, which united the ranks of the free Arabs and Muslims is still going on, and the the infidel group is losing ground while the faithful group is scoring victories one day after the other because it is struggling to achieve the objectives of justice and freedom.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the current stage in which the Arab and Islamic nation is witnessing an exacerbation of conspiracies and aggressions which began with the aggression against great Iraq will reveal how credible these parties and organizations are and how ready are they to substantiate their sublime objectives and defend them against the infidel and aggressor group. He said he is completely confident that victory will be the lot of the mujahidin and defeat for the traitors and agents, like traitor Hafiz al-Assad.

The NFSS secretary general said that the coming days will witness an earthquake in the countries whose rulers have accepted being tools for the implementation of the imperialist U.S.-Zionist schemes at the expense of Arab and Islamic rights to the land, resources, or sovereignty. He said that the alliance of the forces of good and liberation is stronger than all the alliances between the forces of oppression and injustice, and that victory will be scored by those who believe in the fairness of their cause and who defend their rights, freedom, and honor.

Jordanian Ambassador Lands 'Firm' Ties

JN2511142492 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0900 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] 25 Nov (INA)—Nasuh al-Majali, Jordan's newly appointed ambassador to Baghdad, has described Jordanian-Iraqi relations as firm, and said that they derive their firmness from the thought of President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn and their pan-Arab instructions.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, al-Majali added that Iraq—leadership, people, and society—has proven that it is strong. He stressed that only a strong society is capable of reconstruction and development on the political, social, and economic levels. He said: We are looking forward to seeing the crisis settled so that Iraq can play its full role in pan-Arab activity.

Mitterrand Call To End Boycott on Israel Attacked

JN2711104092 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0845 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that Francois Mitterrand is now begging Zionism in every way he can to support his shaky seat during the remainder of his term in office as president of France.

In a commentary today, the paper explains that one of the means Mitterrand employed to appease Tel Aviv and Zionism was to attack the Arab boycott measures against Israel and the companies dealing with it.

AFP has reported that Mitterrand launched a staunch attack against foreign companies that observe the Arab boycott regulations and described them as immoral measures. AFP also reported he urged France's European partners to not observe the Arab boycott against Israel.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is surprising that Mitterrand is describing as immoral the companies' compliance with measures that aim at protecting the rights of the Palestinian people. Mitterrand has overlooked the immoral manner in which he deals with the people of Iraq, while shedding crocodile tears for Zionism and calling for an end to the Arab boycott.

The paper notes that Mitterrand was not the first to make such a move to serve Zionism. It says certain Arab rulers are responding to his call even before the very companies he is trying to persuade.

The paper warns that the moves made by Mitterrand and the traitors of Arabism seek to obliterate all rights of the Palestinian people and to extract concessions from the Arabs that amount to capitulation to the Zionist reality on the Arab nation's land.

Group Leaves for Cairo Meeting of Arab Ministers

JN2711092092 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0855 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Ghassan 'Abd-al-Razzaq, director general of the State Enterprise for Communications and Post, left today for Cairo at the head of a delegation that will attend the meeting of Arab communication ministers, scheduled to begin on Monday [30 November]. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Attends 'Tactical Exercise'

JN2611120992 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1030 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and minister of defense, has attended a tactical exercise using live ammunition conducted by one of the formations affiliated with the heroic al-Qa'qa' forces, which are deployed in the 'Amuriyah

forces operational sector. Infantrymen, armor personnel, and artillerymen took part in the exercise.

In a related development, Righter Staff General 'Ali Hassan al-Majid, RCC member and minister of defense, has met with the commander of the 'Amuriyah forces, who holds the rank of staff major general. The 'Amuriyah forces commander briefed the minister on the progress of the training being given to commanders of the troops operating in the sector. He also informed

the defense minister of the strong motivation of combatants, both officers and enlisted personnel, to implement all phases of the annual training program.

The defense minister called for the optimal use of time during the annual training program to realize the maximum possible benefit in order to enhance the combatants' individual skills.

The Army chief of staff, some of his aides, commanders of Army corps, and the commander of the Army Services Department attended the meeting and the exercise.

French President Mitterrand Pays 2-Day Visit

Arrives at Airport

TA2511152792

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1415 GMT on 25 November begins a live broadcast from Ben-Gurion Airport of French President Francois Mitterrand's arrival on a two-day state visit.

After reviewing an honor guard, Mitterrand proceeds to greet a long line of Israeli dignitaries, headed by President Hayim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

At 1423 GMT, Herzog briefly greets the visiting president in French, and then says in Hebrew: "We are all aware of your personal ties with our country. We know that it is dear to you because of what it symbolizes on the thousands-year-old historical level, the universal message and the human values that evolved in it, and because it is the cradle of the three monotheistic religions. We know about your great interest in the historic heritage of our people, just as we know about your interest in Israel at the end of the 20th Century—its development, problems, and successes, which are not foreign to you.

"You have followed the State of Israel from its inception, and you are aware of its ponderings and its joys. We are happy with this opportunity to present to you the changes and the challenges that the new reality in our world has brought with it, both on the national and the regional planes.

"Our people, our government, my wife, and I are proud to host your wife, yourself, and your entourage in our country. I am sure that these days will mark yet another important tier in the creation and enhancement of cooperation, mutual understanding, and genuine friendship between the French and Israeli nations. I welcome you with a warm and sincere shalom."

At 1425 GMT Mitterrand begins his speech in French, which is subsequently translated into Hebrew. The French president says: "Mr. President, I am very happy to be back in this land, in your homeland. I have been here several times before. I have come here to meet old and new friends, to revisit familiar places, which have been inscribed in our memory for many centuries. I was here 10 years ago. Considering what has happened in this time, the world has changed since 1982. Europe has undergone profound upheavals. It disintegrated and is now reorganizing itself; it became fragmented and is now reunifying. At the same time, the changes in the global balances of power call for reflection and meditation on what will happen in the future to the people and to history.

"I am greatly honored to have been invited to visit you again. Yes, I am honored because I consider this invitation an honor. A visit to Israel is not an ordinary trip. As the president just said, in these two days we will have the opportunity to address many questions of current interest. I

am convinced that we will draw common lessons, and I am sure that the steps we will take will converge.

"Mrs. Herzog said she was pleased to have us here, and I say that the feeling is mutual. I salute you, Mr. President, a respected man and a friend of France, whom we welcomed in our country only a few days ago. You symbolize a people in its diversity.

"Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of France and the French people, I can say that I attach great importance to what we are about to accomplish here together. Thank you."

The live broadcast ends at 1433 GMT and the radio resumes regular programming.

Meets With Rabin

TA2611103992

[Editorial Report]The Hebrew language press on 26 November provides extensive coverage of the arrival on 25 November of French President Francois Mitterrand on a two-day state visit and the opening of talks between Mitterrand and Israeli officials.

Tel Aviv HADASHOT, in a page 7 report by Amnon Barzilai, Aharon Barne'a, and Yoram Binur, reports that "differences of opinion between French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the status of the PLO in the peace talks surfaced in yesterday's working session held in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, in a page A3 report by ITIM and Yerah Tal, says that in their meetings, "Prime Minister Rabin will make it clear to Mitterrand that Israel does not need French mediation between it and the Arabs and Palestinians since it is already holding a direct dialogue with them. They added that Rabin will also say that France's drawing closer to Yasir 'Arafat does not contribute to the peace process because on the one hand, 'Arafat does not control the Rejectionist Front terrorist organizations, and on the other, he himself is preventing a breakthrough in the talks by not permitting the local leadership in the territories to decide its own future."

The report quoted the sources as also saying that in the political talks "Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will raise the Arab boycott and the expectation that President Mitterrand will announce at the end of his visit a French initiative to bring about a resolution to fight the boycott in EC forums."

Tel Aviv 'AJ HAMISHMAR, in a report on pages 1 and 8 by Pe'erli Shuhar and Pinhas Inbari, says that in Wednesday's first meeting with Mitterrand, "Rabin stressed that the Syrians have still not announced their readiness for a separate peace treaty independent of negotiations with the other delegations, and that they are not doing anything to stop the terrorist activity from south Lebanon and also do not prevent the transfer of arms from Iran through Damascus to south Lebanon. On the Palestinians, Rabin noted the fact that there is

nobody to talk with since they are divided among themselves. In reference to Mitterrand's call for Israel to negotiate with the PLO, Rabin reiterated his position that the Palestinians can consult whomever they wish, but he will not sit down with 'Arafat. Rabin also recalled the latest killings in the territories, the attacks on Jews, and the murders of Palestinians by Palestinians."

Delivers Speech at State Dinner

TA2511210392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1930 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Address by French President Francois Mitterrand at a state dinner hosted by President Hayim Herzog at the presidential residence in Jerusalem—live, in French with simultaneous translation into Hebrew]

[Text] Mr. President, Mrs. Herzog, ladies and gentlemen: This is the second time that you have honored me by inviting me to Israel as a head of state. This invitation, which was naturally extended not only to myself, honors France, and I wish to thank you for it, Mr. President.

The exchanges between us did not start today. Our dialogue started long ago, and it has not been severed. We would like to continue it here in your country, bring with you where the roots of our culture lie, in the city that is close to everyone's heart—and allow me to say that without too much ado—and which arouses in me excitement, memories, and great interest in the things that take place here, which are important to the entire world.

I have paid several visits to Israel; this is my seventh visit. At first I arrived here as a private person; then, as the first secretary of the Socialist Party; and in 1982, I came here on a state visit, as I have just mentioned. Those visits allowed me to maintain a dialogue with you for 20 years, and I would like to continue it. Naturally, it is a personal dialogue, but it is fed by your culture. I have already said that at a certain era it was our culture as well. This is all tied to history, to the prevailing writings, to those acute questions that every man asks himself even if he is far from this land. That history I am speaking of is a terrible history in terms of the demands it made of your nation through the ages. I believe we have much to say to each other. We have started, and I believe we will not stop exchanging views before we leave here. We have a lot to do together, beyond words and visits. We need to develop our relations. We need to work toward solving the difficult problems ahead of us, mainly the regional problem, but also problems in other regions.

The times are changing. The world is changing. Things appear to be self-evident. My visit at this time takes place at a time of hope for true peace in the Middle East. This is a fragile hope, yet it is a hope nonetheless. This was not the case in 1981, or in 1982, when I was elected president of the French Republic, and when I had to decide about our future policy regarding the Middle East and Israel. Not only were relations between us not what they should have been, but a distance came between us. This was a result of misunderstandings that had to be

removed, of insufferable boycotts that were tolerated nonetheless. I demanded that they be ended.

If, as you just said, you recognize that, the initiative is not only personal. Whenever such things are said, we will condemn them. We have to discuss the condemnation of taboos that seem to have prevented relations on the highest level. I wanted to abolish that taboo. I did that quite rapidly, and this allowed our countries to change their relations because, eventually, there is a hope that could unite us. My coming to Israel at this time is proof of France' commitment to Israel's very existence and its right to exist in peace and security. I am speaking of the formula that is worth repeating: safe, secure, and recognized borders. I believe the formula is more timely today than ever before. And even if I do not say it every morning, you should know that this is what I think. I am faithful to this commitment of mine.

My first visit was an opportunity to talk to you. Since it is my duty to talk to you, I had to say that you will not have peace unless you also recognize and take into consideration the problems of the other side, the problems of the Palestinians. This was said at the Knesset at the time, as some of you who were there at the time may remember. I know that I was listened to—the things I said and the things I did not say. [words indistinct]

At that time, I knew and felt that words were not everything, that there is a deep friendship between us that will live on. Since then, for some 10 years, things have been changing. Things have changed here as well. Lebanon has known 1,001 splits. There was a war in the Middle East. There are many questions that have no answer. There are threats. Close to us, in Europe—not far from here—an empire collapsed. New nations emerged, and others have gone through a true revival. We do not yet know which will prevail: the need to unite or the need to divide. Today, Europe is full of question marks. France, as part of Western Europe, is working hard to unite, to make a common future for Western Europe. Here as well we see nations splintering up, which can only be seen as negative.

We have made progress in our relations. We have known good times, and I have in mind your visits to France in 1988, Mr. President. Recently we have encountered difficult times. Nothing obligates us always to be in harmony without discussing the issues, without having each party decide its way. On the other hand, many things force us to reach some kind of common ground—after discussing the issues. We both expect to see our friendship existing despite its ability to contain contradictions. This is the basis for the relations between us.

Mr. President, I am once again here with you after a serious, democratic debate in which all French people took part, a debate that I think was vital for Europe's future, for the unification of Europe. I am convinced that this is the only possible way to build from that seed, patiently and slowly, a stable Europe that is today threatened by nationalism and Balkanization.

Of course, France takes an interest in its traditional partners outside the European Continent and does not ignore its friends or its responsibilities toward the permanent members of the Security Council. You have indicated your willingness to strengthen bilateral ties with France, and we are also willing to do the same. Fruitful discussions have already begun in the sphere of scientific and technological cooperation. An impressive program will be approved tomorrow by the foreign ministers. Headway has also been made on health matters. There is cooperation between us in the field of computerization in schools, and there may be cooperation on transportation matters. All these are leading us in the right direction, and you will also find me willing to give the necessary encouragement wherever it is needed.

One question always rises, an essential question, the question of peace. For peace to be lasting, it must be based on justice and the law. Even if the law is not perfect, it is nevertheless based on principles adopted by the United Nations. Any other action will lead to an impasse. This means that the day will come when all the countries, all the peoples in the region, will realize their commitment to the right of others to exist and to be secure.

Perhaps we should remember about those days when, on behalf of France, I encouraged bilateral and direct contacts. In fact, there was no other way. It seems to me that I was the only one in my country who approved of the Camp David meetings which, of course, contributed to the attainment of peace between Egypt and Israel. Later, however, it was realized that these steps were limited and they slowed down. That is why in 1984, France, through my office, recommended an international conference with the participation of all the parties and of the superpowers which could help bring about a lasting peace. This idea was not accepted by all the incumbent parties. However, it did not matter, seeing that our aim was the same.

After the Gulf war, the United States—or to be more precise, Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker—succeeded in launching a process aimed at attaining a solution, and I supported it in principle. After all, it is not formulas that matter. Several ways are open to us, and I think the best is the existing one. Let us not waste time over dreams that have become outdated. I do not expect the program I would like to see coming true. In view of my talks with the prime minister, which corroborated my feelings, I am telling you: Place more confidence in your partners, the Palestinians.

I would like to quote the words of the prophet who said: Deliver me from my anguish. Who better than you can understand the suffering of those people and help them live a better life? This can only be done if the interested party—namely, those who represent the people—are part of the process. I believe Israel has announced its intention to adopt confidence-building measures which can make the peace process more accessible and thus encourage all the sides to be fully involved.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, these were some reflections about issues which stand at the core of your daily lives. How can we stop thinking about your courageous and industrious people, who have had to surmount so many obstacles, who were forced to choose between life and death and opted for life? How can we not think about your suffering and, even more so, about the suffering of those men and women, about your families and brethren who in this century were the victims of the most heinous barbarism?

I hope you will discover each other by opening the borders and by communicating. Thus, both nations will discover that which they have in common and will realize that the greatest and most glorious thing is coexistence between different communities. In view of past tragedies, the cruel history of those European countries which today are seeking to build a new Europe, perhaps a new Middle East will emerge, rooted in a peace that is not only founded on security mechanisms but on mutual economic dependence, joint enterprises, and rediscovered confidence.

This is the challenge, to change these areas which are poor in resources. I think that if you use your abilities, which have been impaired by war, you may find a broader horizon. Hence, although it is not yet a reality, such a Middle East is no longer an utopia. This may be the beginning of a process. I often think that one cannot be ignorant of Israel's affairs. Indeed, this is one of the qualities of your people, that others think about you, people who want to overcome all divisions and advance humankind toward the reunification of a divided civilization.

I have always felt, particularly in this city, the weight of thousands of years, the wealth of the unique Bible, foundations upon foundations of suffering and hope from times immemorial, the history of the Israeli people. I occasionally go back to the books to read about those glorious days. You should know how much it matters to me to establish strong and lively relations with your country, with your people. We speak candidly and what we say sometimes hurts, and yet we do not mince our words. Differences exist, we do not conceal them, but this does not mean that tomorrow we will be enemies. We are not enemies.

I read in the papers things that are not to your liking, but I will repeat them nevertheless on condition that you do not mistake my intentions. Israel and France are friendly countries. They share the same destiny. We all need peace and security, both you and us. Perhaps together we can build something which will strengthen the world in the future. Let us not miss this opportunity.

Mr. President, you welcomed us warmly not out of duty. Neither did we come here out of duty, but because we sincerely wanted to. The talks have started and we will continue them tomorrow with the prime minister, whom I met 20 years ago in other places and under different circumstances. I feel that this dialogue will be productive to all.

I would like to thank you for your opinions and your kindness, Mr. President. I know that I am addressing you just as two friends who are meeting each other again. I came to office in 1981 and you came in 1983, and who knows how long we will be here. Clearly, our terms in office will come to an end. In any event, we are meeting on heads of state and that is why we must understand each other. I am also familiar with your family roots and I know how deeply involved it was in the fate of France.

As for you, Mrs. Hering, you have offered us your hospitality. You know France and speak the language and you are therefore able to grasp all the subtleties of the French language. You must know that you accorded us the warm welcome we wished for.

Ladies and gentlemen, two, almost three days, are not a long time in a man's life. Nevertheless, we—not just me, but all the French people in my entourage—have been given a privilege. We feel good in your midst, Mr. President. We would stay here longer, but life goes on. We will leave on our way, but we will not forget you.

I would like to propose a toast and wish you personally, Mr. President, Mrs. Hering and your dear ones, your people, the Israeli people, my best wishes for peace, prosperity, and security. Thank you.

3 Agreements Signed

TA2611153892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by Eliahu Beck in Jerusalem—Eve]

[Text] The Israelis and the French are unanimous: A new era has begun in relations between the two countries, and they are on the verge of an era of extended cooperation. Three cooperation agreements were signed today: one on scientific development, a second on health issues, and the third on jointly fighting drugs. The signing of two other agreements has been delayed. An agreement in principle was reached on upgrading the Haifa-Nahariyya railroad and laying a new line to Eilat, but it will take several more weeks of deliberations before the agreement is signed. An agreement on the computerization of Israeli schools will entail even more discussion.

What allowed this revival in the relations between the two countries? We asked Georges Sarré, French secretary of state for road and river transport. His explanation was simple: Both parties have a political willingness today to develop bilateral relations.

This afternoon at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, French President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the finance and foreign ministers of both countries, and the heads of the Israeli delegations to the peace talks held a working session. The main issue broached in the session was the political process, mainly the negotiations with the Palestinians. The Israelis were pleased to hear that Mitterrand supports the Madrid formula and the solution in stages, despite the existing differences.

Prime Minister Rabin has asked his guest to try using his influence on the Palestinians to convince them to take the first step and accept what is being offered to them now.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I call on a number of states that have contacts and linkage with the Palestinians to influence them to start talking practically. At the same time, the bilateral negotiations will remain in their current shape.

[Beck] Sir, when you speak of differences between you, do you mean—among other things—the participation of the PLO in the negotiations?

[Rabin] I will not go into details. Israel's stand is well known, and we adhere to it. France may have a different opinion. This would not create any tension between us. Just the opposite. I believe that President Mitterrand is a friend of Israel, even if occasionally his views are different from those maintained by the current Israeli Government. [end recording]

The prime minister is, therefore, pleased with his discussions with Mitterrand and the state of relations between the two countries. Another achievement of the visit may be announced in Mitterrand's news conference soon: a French commitment to act for a joint European operation against the Arab boycott.

Scientific Relations Expanded

TA2711082692 Jerusalem Qol Yisro'el in Hebrew
0805 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by science affairs correspondent Meron Tsar]

[Excerpt] The French president's visit opened a new era in the Israeli-French scientific and technological relations. These expanded relations can be considered an important breakthrough. This is a direct outcome of an agreement in principle achieved between Foreign Minister Peres and the French president and prime minister. The two countries' science ministers reached an agreement bypassing a problem involving legislative processes in France which prohibit establishment of a binational fund without changing French law. This should be seen as a clear French willingness to extend its scientific relations with Israel. [passage omitted]

France and Israel will invest a sum of \$12 million each annually for a period of five years at least, for the following three purposes: A. \$2 million annually for expanding scientific cooperation, on top of an existing program entailing \$1 million annually; namely, the scope of the scientific cooperation has been tripled. B. \$6 million annually for industrial research and development. C. \$16 million for risk capital for joint industrial projects between Israeli and French industries. This agreement opens new possibilities for the employment of scientists, engineers, and technicians on a large scale. Science and Technology Minister Amnon Rubinstein also raised before his French counterpart the issue of

receiving France's support for Israel's incorporation in the European Space Agency.

Rabin Gives Mitterrand Message for Jordan

TA2611180792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Rar]

[Excerpt] [message omitted] This afternoon, the Israeli and French top echelons held a working lunch. The outstanding issue in the session was Israel's desire for elections to the Palestinian council to be held. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that such elections will allow the formation of an elected leadership that would be authorized to make progress in the negotiations. This can be seen as a reply to the French view that the PLO is the only body able to speak for the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke of the need to promote the two-stage peace process in which Israel is engaged. Autonomy must be promoted first. Here is what he said after the meeting:

[Begin Rabin recording] I suggested that France—and I suggest that anyone who can—influence the Palestinians, for example, to accept—as a starting point, as a concept—what they are committed to, based on the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference: Progress toward the permanent solution in two stages; an interim arrangement for five years and negotiations on the permanent solution. Primarily, they have to try to make the first step, to change reality, and to create new hopes for the future. [end recording]

Both sides described the lunch meeting as very good. The conversation was candid, and the ability to discuss the issues at length and with an open mind was clearly visible. Speaking about a potential role for France as a mediator in the region, Mitterrand said that it cannot play this role, although he noted that over the past two years he had held two meetings with Yasir 'Arafat as an expression of his willingness to play some role in the Middle East. Still, it is clear to him that France cannot play the role of a mediator. This stand corresponds with Israel's view that the bilateral talks are direct, under U.S. auspices, and that Europe in general—and France in particular—do not belong there.

Nevertheless, the atmosphere is good; a new leaf was turned in the relations, or as Yitzhak Rabin put it:

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe that there is an opening for cooperation in many fields which will help Israel and certainly will not harm French interests. Also, there is more understanding for the often-differing attitudes regarding the peace negotiations. I believe that this visit is a landmark for a new and better chapter in relations between France and Israel. [end recording]

In the summit meeting, Shim'on Peres again stressed the importance of elections in the territories which can be held

in four to six months, he said. Israel is going back to this issue with full force, after it seemed to have been forgotten.

As for Syria, Peres said that it cannot ask for our specific reference to the issue of withdrawal, while offering only a vague reference to the meaning of peace. On the same note, Yitzhak Rabin said that current Israeli Government is committed to peace and is willing to make painful concessions. He again said that Israel is willing to withdraw on the Golan Heights.

Rabin asked President Mitterrand to relay a message to Jordan, where he will be going tomorrow, saying that we highly appreciate Jordan, its king, and the manner in which it conducts the negotiations. Rabin said: We have an interest in a strong Jordan, under Hashemite rule. At the same time we are not forgetting Jordan's siding with Iraq during the Gulf war. [message omitted]

Mitterrand Meets Peres

TA2611112492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] President Mitterrand promised Shim'on Peres he will urge the Palestinians to show openness in the political negotiations so that these negotiations can be promoted. Political correspondent Shlomo Rar reports that in a talk between the two personages, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked Mitterrand to relay to the Palestinian delegation the main points of the Israeli Government's policy.

Peres conferred with his French counterpart, Roland Dumas, this morning. The two held an extensive discussion about the political negotiations. Peres raised the matter of Israel's joining the European countries' bloc in the UN organization and requested that matters be facilitated for Israelis who are required to ask for entry visas.

Discusses Peace Process With Palestinians

TA2611190192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand held a meeting this evening with Palestinian leaders, headed by Fayyad al-Husayni, at the French Consulate in Jerusalem. The meeting ended a few minutes ago. A second meeting with the Palestinians will be held later tonight by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to discuss economic matters. Our correspondent, Amir Hay, reports:

[Hay] The message the Palestinians relayed to President Mitterrand this evening was: Without the direct and full participation of the PLO in the political process there will be no progress whatsoever in the negotiations. This was also the content of the message 'Arafat asked al-Husayni to deliver to Mitterrand when they met in Tunis a few days ago. In the meeting, President Mitterrand voiced his full support for the inclusion of the PLO in the political process. At the same time, he urged the Palestinians to evince more flexibility.

It should be pointed out that France is the West European country closest to the PLO, and that PLO leaders are welcome guests in Paris. Having said that, Mitterrand's current visit is designed to get closer to Israel.

It has been learned that in the contacts preceding the meeting between Mitterrand and the Palestinians the French president refused to meet al-Husayni at the delegation's residence in East Jerusalem. Contacts continued until the last minute in search of other venues. Among other things, it was proposed to hold a tripartite meeting between Mitterrand, al-Husayni, and 'Arafat in Amman. Of course, the idea was rejected out of hand.

However, to appease the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will attend a reception in his honor at the delegation's residence in East Jerusalem this evening. In any event, a precedent was set this evening whereby a head of state visits Israel and does not feel obliged to confer with the Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Promises \$4 Million in Aid

TA2711070292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] France has pledged \$4 million of economic assistance to the Palestinians in the territories. Last night, French President Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas held talks with Palestinians from the territories. Mark Weiss reports.

[Begin recording] [Weiss] At the French Consulate close to the King David Hotel, President Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met with four leading Palestinians from the territories: Fayal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. The talks concentrated on the Middle East peace process and political matters. Immediately after the one-and-a-half hour meeting the Palestinians and the French foreign minister traveled to East Jerusalem and were joined by nine other Palestinians and French Foreign Ministry officials for further talks. During the talks France offered a 100 scholarships for Palestinians' training in the public and private sector, and loans, loan guarantees, and grants for \$4 million to help development of the Palestinian private sector.

On political matters, both the president and foreign minister expressed French support for the Middle East peace process, and said they would try to help the sides overcome their differences. The Palestinians pressed for a meeting between President Mitterrand and the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat. Palestinian spokeswoman, Hanan 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] Well, he said he does not see why there should be a meeting in Amman. Tunis is available if he wants to go there, and Paris of course is open if President 'Arafat wants to go there. So, that sense of the meeting is there, and does not have to be in Amman and now, but we did ask very specifically: We asked the president and the

foreign minister that they work towards a meeting with President 'Arafat, and they were amenable to that.

[Weiss] The Palestinians were annoyed that the initial meeting of President Mitterrand was not held in East Jerusalem. Fayal al-Husayni explained the significance that the meeting with the foreign minister was moved to East Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, it is in East Jerusalem, and we believe that it is clear that there is a meaning about it, not only for us as the Palestinians, but also for others who must deal with us in such a way.

[Weiss] Representatives of the Popular and Democratic Fronts who oppose the peace process refuse to attend the meeting with Foreign Minister Dumas in protest over the fact that they had not been invited to the initial meeting with President Mitterrand. [end recording]

[Also reporting on the meetings with the Palestinians Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 27 November adds that "according to the Palestinians, the talk with Mitterrand was good and concentrated mainly on the situation in the territories, the peace process, and French involvement in this process." Also, "following the meeting with Foreign Minister Dumas which took place at the Palestinian delegation's building in East Jerusalem, al-Husayni emphasized it is important that France take an active part in the peace negotiations since France understands the Palestinian interests. In the course of the talk with Dumas, al-Husayni raised the problems which Israel creates in the course of the negotiations, and that in his opinion, despite the change in Israel, there is no doubt that Yitzhaq Shamir's spirit is still pervading the Israeli delegation to the peace talks."]

Rabin Notes Differences on Peace Process

TA2611135392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by Eldad Beck in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] At an impromptu news conference at the end of a working luncheon with French President Francois Mitterrand attended by other Israeli and French cabinet ministers, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed that there are differences of opinion between France and Israel with regard to the peace process, mainly concerning the participation of the PLO and Israel's proposals to the Palestinians about an interim arrangement in the territories.

Nevertheless, the prime minister pointed out that he was happy to hear from his French guest that France recognizes the need to move step by step on the peace process rather than all at once. He added that several issues pertaining to bilateral agreements on cooperation in various spheres, which will apparently be signed within the next 90 minutes, had been raised in the luncheon.

The prime minister, who seemed to be in good spirits, pointed out that he is convinced that French President Francois Mitterrand is a true friend of Israel.

Mitterrand Holds News Conference

TA261116J292

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qel Yass'el in Hebrew at 1514 GMT on 26 November begins broadcasting live coverage of a news conference by French President Francois Mitterrand, which is already in progress at the Larenne Hotel in Jerusalem. The news conference is conducted in French with superimposed Hebrew paraphrased translation by correspondent Freddy Eytan and running commentary by political correspondent Shimon Raz.

Asked by an unidentified French television correspondent how France can contribute to the peace process, Mitterrand answers: "There is a lot that does not depend on France. There are many elements involved in the conflict. We discussed the conditions to attain a dialogue, the French initiative in the framework of the multilateral talks that began in Madrid, and the role to be played by the European Community. The idea is to have an initiative whereby France, as part of the EC, definitely could play a mediating role. Personally, I am very much in favor of such an initiative, but we are talking primarily about development funds for these countries, about water, transportation, issues related to the desert, about all the countries of the Middle East. We are talking about a European development fund dedicated to specific issues. We are talking about 1 billion ECU [European Currency Unit] or approximately \$1 billion. France can make a contribution within the framework of the EC and promote the establishment of this fund."

To the assertion of an unidentified French radio correspondent "that the PLO definitely exists, Mitterrand smiles and says: How do you know? The correspondent retorts: Your spokesman said so, to which the French president replies: He is telling the truth, of course."

Asked whether he thinks the time has come for Israel to recognize the PLO and whether France can do anything on the matter, Mitterrand replies: "France has stated as much, but it cannot replace the State of Israel or the Israeli Government, or state its opinion about the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's recognition of the PLO. I have said on many occasions, as far back as 10 years ago, that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the matter. I cannot speak for the Palestinians, but I think the PLO definitely represents the entire Palestinian people. However, with whom to negotiate is the Israeli Government's business. I came here as a friend; I express the opinion of the French Government. I am not sure that people listen to what I have to say 100 percent. As former German Chancellor Willy Brandt said, I think it is wiser to advance step by step. This approach has not yielded any results so far, but any progress is good. The fact is that it is up to the Palestinians and to the Israeli Government to decide. It is also a fact that the PLO exists. Time will tell

whether I was right on this issue. The Israeli Government has formulated a very wise strategy, a prolonged step-by-step approach. I have known Prime Minister Rabin for many years; I first met him at the Socialist International conferences. I also have met Shimon Peres on many occasions, including when he was prime minister. We talk as friends, even if our opinions occasionally differ, and we will continue to do so in the future."

Asked by an unidentified correspondent for the Paris-based Jewish radio station Shalom whether he really wants to join the peace process, the French president says: "No, I am not prepared to join the peace process when I see that it is going nowhere. I believed in a different method, in an international conference under the auspices of the Security Council, but my position was not accepted. The Israeli Government at the time believed that this was not the right way to go about it. It did not accept my proposal; it wanted guarantees. Well, that is the privilege of the Israeli Government. I am a realistic person. A process is under way now, and I hope it will continue."

To an untranslated question by the same correspondent, Mitterrand says: "The Palestinians are eagerly asking for aid. We are talking about bilateral talks, and we cannot mediate between the Palestinians and Israel. We have met with several Palestinian leaders, including twice with 'Arafat. I was the last European leader who met with 'Arafat; it took me some time. Israel criticized this move. Spanish King Juan Carlos met with 'Arafat, and Israel said nothing about the matter and did not voice any criticism. I met 'Arafat for the second time as part of a delegation led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. What are my conclusions from the two meetings I held with 'Arafat? I would say that there is actually no other entity within the Palestinian people other than 'Arafat. I am a realistic person, and this is the reality. I said as much today to my Israeli interlocutors."

An unidentified French radio correspondent stationed in Israel asks Mitterrand a question about his gesture of laying a wreath on Marshal Petain's tomb and says Israelis failed to understand it. Mitterrand says: "First of all, as I have said many times before, this is an internal problem. I do not respond to such issues when I am abroad. This is an internal affair. This was not the first time that a French president has laid a wreath on Marshal Petain's tomb. I am the fourth person to have made this gesture. No one said anything when President Giscard d'Estaing did the same. This is an emotional, rather than a logical matter. The French Government has done everything in its power with regard to the Holocaust and to fight neo-Nazism. France's responsibility for the Vichy regime, for the collaboration with the Nazis during the Nazi occupation, is absolutely reprehensible. Gestures must be made occasionally to understand, to remember, and to recall the pain and anguish of that period. The dead, the grief, and the suffering cannot be forgotten. They oblige me, as well as every French

president, to behave properly. The Jewish community in France must know that I share in its pain and grief for these dark days."

Asked by an unidentified correspondent for a Paris-based Jewish radio station whether he will be carrying a message for Jordan's King Hussein, the French president says: "I cannot be and I am not a mediator on behalf of Israel and of Shimon Peres."

An unidentified correspondent for THE JERUSALEM POST asks the French president about the totalitarian regimes in the Arab countries. He replies: "This is a very important question, the transition from dictatorship to democracy. Democracy and peace go hand in hand, but I do not want to meddle in the internal affairs of these countries."

Asked by Israel Defense Forces [IDF] Radio correspondent Eliahu Beck whether he has any new information about Syria, Mitterrand replies: "Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was in Damascus some time ago. Bilateral talks are under way with Syria and with Lebanon. The fact that there are direct talks between Israel and Syria makes a difference, but I do not know how sincere Syria and the leaders in Damascus are, but I suppose they are sincere."

Asked by YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Shimon Schiffer what, in particular, irks him about the way the Israeli media treat him, Mitterrand says: "Nothing irks me. I criticize the French press even more. The Israeli media are very lively, and I cannot pass judgment on them." Schiffer persists, noting that he scolded the Israeli television correspondent who asked him about the wreath he laid on Marshal Pétain's tomb. Schiffer goes on to quote commentaries in the Israeli press saying that "Holocaust survivors and Israelis have the right to ask you such a question because this is not an internal French affair." Mitterrand says that he already replied to the question 10 minutes ago.

Asked by an unidentified correspondent whether he could explain why when he was here 10 years ago then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin fell ill and failed to meet him and today the same happened with Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, Mitterrand replies: "It is a shame that the same does not happen with right-wing men in my country. I had good and friendly relations with Menachem Begin and I thought very fondly of him. He had a positive attitude toward France. He spoke French and was familiar with French culture. Until his last day Menachem Begin differed with me. As for Mr. Shamir, at our age one can never tell. It may very well be that he did not feel well. Israeli politics can be very tough and wear people out."

Asked by an unidentified correspondent where he favors Israel's inclusion in the community of Francophone countries, the French president says: "I am definitely in favor of such a move, but this is not a top priority for Israel. After all, only 10 percent of Israelis speak French. Most Israeli leaders speak French, quite fluently. Israelis

speak many languages, and I would like them to speak French as well. The Israeli Government does everything in its power to promote the French language. We will discuss the question of French language teaching in schools with Shimon Peres tomorrow."

Asked by Qol Yisra'el correspondent Jack Katznelson how France can fight the PLO's terrorism in view of the fact that it signed an agreement with it, the French president answers: "I do not understand your question. You are entitled to your own opinions, but you are making things up. We have diplomatic relations with the PLO and we occasionally hold meetings. We are not the only ones who meet with the PLO. Other European countries also have good relations with it. I do not know of any shameful agreement with the PLO. There are no treaties with the PLO. We have relations with it, just as we have with other movements and organizations."

French television correspondent Christian Mallard asks about Iran's efforts to become a superpower in the Persian Gulf. Mitterrand replies: "Military build-up efforts are under way on the part of Iran and Iraq. They wanted to impose their hegemony on other countries in the region, and we objected to it. We must take a sober look at the situation. We are talking about the Arab world, and one can never tell with this region. Nothing should be done to create an upheaval or bring about a revolution in this region."

Live coverage of Mitterrand's news conference ends at 1549 GMT and the radio returns to scheduled programming.

Rabin Hopes for French Aid for Peace Talks

TA2711111192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1805 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is touring Beer-sheva and the Negev today, and says he hopes that one of the practical outcomes of the French president's visit will be French aid for the promotion of the negotiations process. Our correspondent in the south Nissim Qrynan says the prime minister also reacted to reports that Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah updates him on Yasser 'Arafat's positions.

[Begin recording] [Qrynan] In conclusion of French President Mitterrand's visit, Prime Minister Rabin said he asked the president to emphasize to the Jordanian king that Israel is interested in an independent Jordan, that Jordan functions well in the negotiations process, and that he hopes it will continue to do so.

As for reports that MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah updates the prime minister about his meetings with 'Arafat, Mr. Rabin said:

[Rabin] I met with him, as I meet with other MK's. I do not remember when that was; a week or two ago. I did not receive, nor was I prepared to hear...[changes thought] He did not relay any message to me, nor do I send explanations and reports about what 'Arafat thinks.

[Qryman] Asked whether he expects practical results from the French president's visit, the prime minister said he hopes that the French will help the negotiations process on the multilateral talks level.

The prime minister toured BeerSheva today. In the course of his tour he met with new immigrants and inquired about their absorption in Israel. At the moment the prime minister is visiting the Ramat Negev regional council. [read recording]

Rabin Reportedly To Seek Talks With PLO

TA2611101692

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 26 November carries a report by correspondent Amos Barak on page 1 that says: "Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has decided to change the tactics in the peace talks with the Palestinians and to open a channel for an indirect dialogue with the PLO leadership in the territories and Tunis. In the wake of this approach by Rabin, a decision was made yesterday to act to rescind the law prohibiting meetings with the PLO, and the justice minister will submit a draft resolution on this issue to the Knesset next week. Thus, Israel intends to signal to the United States to resume contacts with the PLO leaders in Tunis."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 26 November reports that Justice Minister David Liba'i, in a talk with Rami Bergay, stated that "next week he will indeed submit to the Knesset a draft resolution which lifts the ban on meeting with PLO members, provided that state security is not harmed." However, the report adds that "this does not constitute legitimacy for negotiations with the PLO; the government continues to oppose such negotiations, but the law forbidding Israelis to meet with PLO members is unnecessary and should be canceled, Minister Liba'i said." The same report also notes that Liba'i said that "the decision to allow the stay of 1,000 Palestinians from Jordan stemmed from humanitarian considerations. He said that Likud members' claims referring to materialization of the right of return are demagogic."

Shoval on Contacts With Clinton

TA2511188992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Speaking at a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington today, Ambassador Zalman Shoval said the PLO is the main obstacle to peace with the Palestinians. Washington correspondent Arye Golan spoke with our ambassador in the United States.

[Begin recording] [Shoval] We have felt for a long time that the Palestinian delegation does not necessarily act according to its own wishes. 'Arafat's approach is understandable but unjustifiable, seeing that the moment the interim arrangement materializes and elections are held in the territories, a local Palestinian leadership will

emerge that will gradually make 'Arafat's so-called leadership secondary. It may very well be that 'Arafat and the men surrounding him are not only fighting for their political future but also for their political present.

[Golan] Ambassador Shoval, will Israel agree to the establishment of dozens of branches of Jordanian banks in the territories?

[Shoval] We will definitely agree to the establishment of bank branches. The exact criteria and number of branches will be discussed in due course.

[Golan] Have you already begun holding regular contacts with members of the new administration, with Clinton's men? Have they already formulated a new Middle East policy?

[Shoval] I have held one regular meeting with the man Clinton appointed to this end, just as the prime minister appointed me. It was a rather long, detailed meeting. However, no decisions were made in this meeting, nor will any be made in subsequent meetings; we will just exchange information.

[Golan] What have you learned? What information did you receive?

[Shoval] At this point, more than getting information, I am trying to impart information since, as you well know, Clinton's foreign policy team has not yet been appointed. [garage omitted]

Rabinovich Appointed Envoy to U.S.

TA2511212592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
2000 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today approved the appointment of Professor Itamar Rabinovich as ambassador in Washington.

The ministry also decided to appoint Yusef Gervin, who currently serves as an assistant director general in charge of Eastern Europe, Israel's ambassador in Austria.

Meir Raviv, deputy director general in charge of public relations, was appointed ambassador in London.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministerial appointments committee this evening approved additional appointments to Israel's representation around the world. All of the people named are Foreign Ministry employees.

IDF Thinning Out Troops Deployed in Lebanon

TA2611123492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Nov 92 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Security sources in Lebanon claimed that Israeli tanks yesterday shelled Lebanese soldiers in the village of Kafr Rammoun in south Lebanon north of the security

none after apparently suspecting them wrongly of being terrorists. According to the sources, the tanks fired some 25 shells into the village forcing the Lebanese army patrol to seek cover. One house was damaged, but there were no casualties.

Israeli sources reacted by saying that the shells were not fired at Lebanese Army soldiers. They said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] discerned several figures suspected of being terrorists and therefore opened fire at them.

Sources in the Northern Command said last night that there has been relative quiet along the northern border in recent days, and the IDF has to a large extent thinned out its forces in the security strip, which had been beefed up due to Katyusha shelling. The IDF believes that there will be a drop in attempted attacks due to the harsh winter weather. Nevertheless, it does not exclude the possibility of a renewed escalation in the wake of reports in the U.S. media about IDF intentions to assassinate Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Officers To Be Sent to UN Peacekeeping Forces

TA2611060202 Jerusalem Qel Yasa'el in English
0000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Israel has decided to participate in the UN peacekeeping forces. Eight Israeli Defense Force reserve officers will be deployed worldwide. In so doing, Israel has acceded to UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali's request to participate in the peacekeeping forces.

'Arafat Interviewed by YEDFOT AHARONOT

TA2711115062 Tel Aviv YEDFOT AHARONOT
(LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 27 Nov 92 pp 2, 3

[Interview with PLO leader Yasser 'Arafat by Nahum Barnea and Smadar Peri in 'Arafat's residence "in Model Villa, a residential quarter in the northern sector of Tunis;" date not given]

[Text] [YEDFOT AHARONOT] You have offered to meet Yitzhak Rabin. If he agreed, what would you tell him?

['Arafat] I am sorry to say that I looked for somebody like de Gaulle in Israel and I could not find one. I could not even find somebody like de Klerk. Who will Rabin meet if not me? Does he plan to make peace with a ghost?

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] You welcomed the new Israeli government enthusiastically. Have you changed your mind?

['Arafat] I have not changed my mind. From day one I have been wanting to remind Rabin that Israelis voted for peace and against Shamir's policy. Unfortunately, Rabin is following in Shamir's footsteps. Nothing has been achieved in the last two rounds of negotiations. In fact, nothing has been achieved in the 13 months since the Madrid conference.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Have you passed a decision to boycott the talks?

['Arafat] We discussed the issue in the last two days. We put off a decision until we have contacted all the sides.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] When you say "the sides," do you mean the Americans? Do you have contacts with them?

['Arafat] You must not forget that Dr. Nabil Sha'ith is there, together with Akram Haniyah and Tayyar al-'Aruri (both departed from Israel), and they are talking to the Americans. But Rabin is still trying to follow Shamir's line, hiding the sun with his finger. I watched their television debate during the election campaign. Rabin told Shamir: You cheat the Israelis when you claim that you are not talking with the PLO. Now Rabin is emulating Shamir.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] The fact is that Rabin is negotiating with the PLO. So why is it so important to you to meet with him?

['Arafat] He is the occupier. He can give the first sign of a willingness to withdraw. The moment he gives such a sign he will encounter open hearts. However, he should remember that if there is no peace with the Palestinians there will be no peace in the region. Look what is happening now in Yugoslavia.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] The impression one gets from your answers is that you perceive a meeting with Rabin as the be-all and end-all.

['Arafat] We are obviously interested in such a meeting, but it is not the main issue. The point is that over a year has gone by. We gave everybody the opportunity to try their hand, but nothing has budged.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Rabin is sure that you personally—you, not your friends—are blocking the negotiations.

['Arafat] I have noted down three pronouncements made by Rabin in the last 48 hours. He addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and he had an editorial motive. He wanted to provoke us, but I do not mind. In my opinion, Rabin, not just me, is an obstacle to peace. And, if both of us are obstacles to peace we have the duty to meet and together remove the obstacles.

Does any Israeli believe that our leadership in the negotiations can be bypassed? Can any member of the Israeli delegation suddenly bypass the Israeli Government? I do not understand Rabin's statements, unless they are meant for domestic consumption.

Perhaps they are trying to create a smoke screen to conceal the entire issue. If you want to make peace you must stick to reality. We are there, and we are there to stay. You are there, and you are there to stay. These are the facts.

Rabin has not yet accepted the principle that Resolution 242 applies to the territory of Palestine. This means that he does not recognize that we are talking about occupied territories. Ten days ago Rabin said that we are like the Basques and the Kurds. Is that so? The truth is that we

were in Palestine even before Moses (the prophet Moses). He was our guest when he fled Pharaoh, and he married one of our women. Is that right or not?

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Not exactly....

[Arafat] You must study history?

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Are Jeroboam, Zipporah's father, and his Midianite brothers the ancestors of the Palestinians?

[Arafat] They are part of us, definitely. And do not forget that "goyim" also have a right to live.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Are you "goyim"?

[Arafat] (Smiling) Yes.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] A car bomb was found last Saturday in Ramat Efa, near Tel Aviv. Are you going back to terror operations inside Israel?

[Arafat] I have no information on the issue. However, when one year goes by without making any progress you should expect groups of fanatics to emerge on both sides. Take for example the grenade thrown in Jerusalem's Old City. This is what I would call utter confusion, a mess. Look what Iran has been doing in Lebanon and in the entire region. Look at the aid it gives Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement).

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] In your opinion, do the PLO and Israel have a common cause in their struggle with Hamas?

[Arafat] You must not forget that Rabin gave them license to operate at the beginning of the intifadah, and he was very proud of it.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] If you decide to stop the intifadah, will it stop?

[Arafat] The intifadah will continue, one week after another, until the end of the occupation. It will come in waves, with ups and downs.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Will the intifadah not stop even if you give the order?

[Arafat] I will not give the order.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Even if Israel holds negotiations with you?

[Arafat] No. The intifadah will continue until the occupation is over. Will Rabin stop the occupation while he negotiates with me? I will not give an order to stop the spirit of resistance. If you were in my place you, too, would remember the spirit of Masada.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Do you regard Masada as a source of inspiration?

[Arafat] No. I see victory as my source of inspiration.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] When you were under siege in Beirut you did not finish off the business in the spirit of Masada.

[Arafat] No, but I stayed under siege for three months. Believe me, I left Beirut only because the Lebanese people asked me to leave.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] What do you think of Rabin?

[Arafat] He is an intelligent man, but he still thinks like a general, with his muscles instead of his brain. In this context I would like to add that we are not fighting fanatic groups. Israel's attitude has heartened these groups throughout the region, including within Israel.

Rabin knows that I am leading the Palestinian march toward peace, but I am sorry to say that he is looking for another person to lead the Palestinians to surrender, to a cosmetic occupation. Agreeing to a local administrative body would amount to surrender.

Rabin is not telling the truth to the Israeli people when he says that negotiations are under way. These are no negotiations. It is only talk and more talk. Time may not be on our side, but it is not on the Israeli side either; it is certainly not on the side of the political future of the Rabin government. His government does not stand many chances if he cannot bring peace.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] What do you think of Shimon Peres?

[Arafat] Frankly, he is more sensible than Rabin. To give you an example, in his speech to the UN Peres mentioned "the Palestinian people," whereas Rabin and his delegation to the bilateral negotiations talk about "Palestinians."

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Are you pleased with Meretz's performance in the government?

[Arafat] (Smirking) We are still waiting for them to fulfill their promises in the election campaign.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Have you ever stopped to think why most Israelis have such a negative attitude toward you?

[Arafat] They have heard bad things about me, just as they heard about al-Sadat, al-Nasir, al-Asad, and King Husayn. It is part of the propaganda, part of the effort to raise their morale.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Does it not have to do, among other things, which your positions during the Gulf war?

[Arafat] I was right. I opposed the war, which cost \$624 billion. This more or less amounts to the entire debt of the Third World, and we are still reeling from that war.

[YEDFOT AHARONOT] Many Israelis believe that you would be better off grabbing the Israeli proposal as is.

and enter negotiations on the permanent solution three years later. Are you not missing the opportunity of a lifetime?

[Arafat] A house cannot be strong if its foundations are not strong. Do not forget that I am an engineer by profession....

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] That sounds like an elegant way of saying no.

[Arafat] Had I wanted to say no, our delegation would not have gone to the negotiations. It was not an easy decision. There was a big fight within the PLO.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] If the negotiations fail will you again embrace the Palestinian Covenant?

[Arafat] We have contingency plans for every eventuality. At the same time, you must remember that for us peace is a matter of principle and not just a political issue.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] You were in Cairo, and Shim'on Peres was there shortly afterward. What message did you relay to Israel through Mubarak?

[Arafat] The message was that there will be no comprehensive peace without progress on the Palestinian track.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Was there not anything more specific?

[Arafat] Let Peres tell.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Is it true that the PLO in the territories is on the brink of bankruptcy, that widows, orphans, and wives of prisoners have stopped receiving allowances?

[Arafat] Money flows, but not like Hamas' money. I do not have Iran and the Gulf countries to back me up. I only have enough money to go on doing what we are doing now, and that is good enough for me.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you have a list of Israelis who have met secretly with PLO representatives?

[Arafat] There is a list. I will publish it in due course.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] How many names does it contain?

[Arafat] Dozens.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Does the list include senior Likud members?

[Arafat] I will not get dragged into internal Israeli arguments.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Is there any truth to the rumors that David Levi met in Morocco with one of your men?

[Arafat] No comment.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] When you were appointed leader of the PLO in 1968 Golda Meir was the Israeli prime minister and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was the Egyptian president. Do you not occasionally think about retiring?

[Arafat] There is no retirement in revolutions. One must work. I would be glad if my resignation were accepted.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What is it that has kept you alive all these years?

[Arafat] I believe in religion. I am more religious than Shamir....

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you fear anything?

[Arafat] Only God.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you listen to music? Do you read books?

[Arafat] Yes, of course. I cannot fall asleep unless I read for at least half an hour.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What do you read?

[Arafat] Everything. History, fiction, novels, poetry. In Arabic.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you know any books by Israeli authors?

[Arafat] (Consults with his wife) I know 'Amos 'Oz, I know "The Yellow Wind." I started reading a book about the Bible written by a Syrian author.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Finally, here is a question which all journalists have probably been asking you recently: You are a married man now. How has marriage changed your life?

[Arafat] As you can see for yourselves, nothing has changed. God bless my wife. The work is the same work, the traveling is the same traveling, the hours are the same hours, and the questions are the same questions.

Buwayz: 29 Nov Foreign Ministers Meeting Postponed

NC2711063392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has announced the postponement of the meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace talks, which he had called to convene in Beirut on 29 November. The meeting was postponed because not all the foreign ministers agreed on the date.

Buwayz: Israeli Peace Treaty 'Unacceptable'

NC2711112092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told AL-NIDA' magazine (as heard) that the Israeli request to sign a peace treaty in return for withdrawing from Lebanon is unacceptable because Lebanon is demanding unconditional withdrawal on the basis of Resolution 425.

Buwayz believes Israel is raising the security issue deliberately to establish some conditions. He clarified that we distinguish between conditions that harm sovereignty and those that do not. He repeated his call for harmony between the resistance in the south and the state so that matters do not reflect negatively on the resistance. We then would be destroying whatever might harm the state, the resistance, and Lebanese rights.

Buwayz Meets UN Envoy, Discusses Role in Talks

NC2711094892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammās yesterday discussed developments in the south and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's situation in this region during talks at Bustrus Palace with UN Assistant Secretary General Kofi Annan and his accompanying delegation.

Buwayz said after the meeting: We believe the United Nations and its forces play a major role. During the talks, this role could be more crucial, or at least as important as it was before. Buwayz added: Therefore, we reviewed a number of aspects and issues that could bolster the UN role and benefit the sides involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially in southern Lebanon, with the participation of the United Nations to suit the needs of this stage. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi, Birri, al-Hariri Hold Talks in Syria

Leaders Go To Damascus 26 Nov

NC2611095192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri

were holding talks with their Syrian counterparts in Damascus. The talks deal with recent developments in the south and the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington.

President al-Hirawi and Speaker Birri left for Damascus at 0930 today. Prime Minister al-Hariri left for Damascus before them.

A statement issued later by the Presidential Office's Information Department said President al-Hirawi regrets that he is unable to receive deputies today as part of his weekly meetings due to his presence in the Syrian capital.

Al-Hirawi, Birri Return

NC2611214992 Beirut Radio Lebanon
in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri returned to Beirut at 2030 today after attending a Lebanese-Syrian summit in Damascus. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri stayed behind in the Syrian capital.

Al-Hariri Returns to Beirut

NC2711082792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The country's three leaders returned last night from the Syrian capital. At 2100, President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri arrived in Beirut. About three hours later Prime Minister al-Hariri returned to Beirut.

Birri Comments on Meetings

NC2711085492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri made a statement on the plane back to Beirut from Damascus, saying: It was natural, necessary, to hold the meeting at this time, following the Chamber of Deputies elections and Prime Minister al-Hariri being asked to form the government; these things mean that a general governmental structure and legislative authority have been established in Lebanon.

Birri added: Various issues were discussed regarding the Lebanese, Arab, and international arenas, starting with the south and its suffering.

Answering a question, Birri said agreement was reached to convene a meeting of the Higher Council [of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty between Lebanon and Syria] to prepare to appoint a secretary general responsible for the agenda of each session and to proceed with the steps that are in the interest of—what he called—the two twin countries.

On the redeployment of Syrian forces, Birri said: This issue is being raised in the media only. The truth is that there is follow-up and agreement between the two

authorities—Lebanese and Syrian—on this issue. But this does not constitute an obstacle between them. This issue is their business alone, in accordance with the Cooperation Treaty and the bases of al-Ta'if agreement.

He said: The urgent issue now is Israeli withdrawal and implementation of Resolution 425. This is where Lebanon must exert all its efforts and potential to achieve it, whether diplomatically and politically or through resistance. Syria is ready to cooperate on this, Birri said.

Statement Issued on Summit Talks

NC2711093292 Beirut Radio Lebanon
in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Information Directorate at the Presidency has issued a statement on the Damascus summit between Lebanese President Elias al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad.

It said the discussions dealt with the developments in the peace conference and the stages reached so far in the talks. The two sides stressed the need to adhere to the foundations on which the peace conference was based and to cooperation among Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab countries concerned to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. President al-Assad congratulated the Lebanese people on the positive developments achieved in Lebanon after activating the constitutional establishments and the formation of a new government.

Troops, U.S., Hizballah Discussed

NC2711084092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian summit dealt with regional, local, and bilateral issues, as well as international affairs affecting the situation in the Arab world, in general, and south Lebanon, in particular. Political circles reported that the domestic situation in Lebanon was discussed along with administrative appointments. The talks also discussed the need for Syrian intervention to control the military operations by certain organizations in south Lebanon in view of Damascus' influence on the pro-Iranian factions there.

The summit emphasized the required understanding among Arab countries, especially in these delicate circumstances. The two sides reviewed in detail the positions on foreign issues and the developments that U.S. President-elect Clinton's administration may generate. The two sides emphasized their support for common interests and fruitful cooperation on south Lebanon. They stressed support for the country's process of stability and accord.

The expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit concluded yesterday with the delegates agreeing on several issues relating to domestic Lebanese affairs, bilateral ties, the future of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, and the situation in the south. The summit also dealt with the following issues:

1. The stages covered by the Middle East peace negotiations and coordination among the Arab countries on these negotiations.

2. On the Lebanese domestic situation, both sides reviewed the steps that have been taken since the election of the Chamber of Deputies and the formation of the new government. The two sides agreed to implement the remaining clauses of al-Ta'if Accord.

3. Both sides reviewed Lebanese-Syrian relations and agreed to implement the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty. They also agreed that the Treaty's Higher Council will meet to appoint a secretary general to prepare the agenda for its sessions.

4. On redeployment [of the Syrian forces], both sides stressed that the issue concerns the two countries alone and that al-Ta'if Accord and the bilateral security agreement will address it.

5. The two sides discussed the situation in the south and Hizballah's activities.

Phalangist Leader: Conditions for Syrian Redeployment Met

NC2511212492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has declared that, according to the al-Ta'if Accord, the redeployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon was linked to the disbandment of the militias and carrying out constitutional reforms. These points have been implemented, he said.

In an interview with ICN Television [local station, expansion unknown], Dr. Sa'adah stressed that the al-Ta'if Accord's basic provisions were not about presidential authority but about ending the state of war, returning citizens displaced by the war to their homes, and establishing the state's authority over all Lebanese territories. He said that these provisions have not been implemented and this makes us resentful, though not regretful, that we signed the al-Ta'if Accord.

Sa'adah continued: If we had rallied around former President Rene Mu'awwad immediately after his election, we would have spared ourselves much trouble and the al-Ta'if Accord would have been properly implemented. If we had rallied around President al-Hirawi after his election, we would not have reached this state.

The Phalangist leader noted that had the efforts made to boycott the parliamentary elections been made at the proper time, it would not have been possible to push the new election law through parliament. He recalled that Phalangist deputies opposed and voted against that law.

Fatah Official Wounded in Assassination Attempt

NC2511191792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Amin Kayid, the official in charge of Fatah's Security 17 Department, was subjected to an assassination attempt this evening. While driving his Mercedes near the al-Shuhada' circle in Sidon at 1945 this evening, he came under gunfire attack. He was hit by a bullet and sustained an injury but he is not considered to be in danger. His wife was hit by several bullets and is in serious condition. Two of his aides were also hit. The assailants escaped. The injured persons were taken to the hospital. A Lebanese Army detail has cordoned off the area and imposed security measures.

Hizballah Reacts to Israeli Assassination Attempt

Tehran TV Interviews Nasrallah

LD2511172902 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah movement, by unidentified Tehran IRIB television correspondent in Beirut on 25 November]

[Text] Following the exposure of the plot by the Zionist regime to assassinate the leaders of the revolutionary Lebanese Hizballah movement, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of that movement, said that the aim of the Zionist regime in such plots is to crush Islamic movements in the region. About the Zionist regime's plot to assassinate him, the secretary general of Hizballah, who was speaking in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit in Beirut, said: Such terrorist plots by the regime occupying Jerusalem are not unexpected to us. For, throughout its cursed existence, that regime has committed nothing but assassinations and crimes. Referring to the martyrdom of Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the former secretary general of Hizballah, he added: Such cases of martyrdom will awaken the Muslims and further unite them to fight arrogance and Zionism. With God's help the martyrdom of the holy warriors will lead to the further spread of the anti-Zionist resistance in the region.

Stressing that the operations of the Islamic resistance movement will continue he said: The holy warriors of the Islamic resistance movement have dealt heavy blows to the Zionist regime. And that regime, which finds itself impotent to fight Hizballah combatants, to cover up its weakness, has no alternative but to resort to terrorist action.

Finally, reiterating Hizballah's allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, he said: Despite all the pressure and plots by world arrogance and the Zionist regime, the holy warriors of the Islamic resistance movement will continue their holy war against the Zionist

regime until all the occupied lands are liberated. [Video shows Nasrallah talking with correspondent's superimposed translation]

Nasrallah Gives News Conference

NC2611093092 Ba Labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The abortive Zionist attempt to deal a hard blow to Hizballah through an assassination attempt against its secretary general continues to draw the attention of Islamic circles.

The primary target of the operation, His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the Hizballah Secretary General, has emphasized that the exposed, unsuccessful Zionist attempt to assassinate him did not come as a surprise; rather it was expected, not only against him personally, but against all mujahidin and those who refuse to allow their nation to live under humiliation, contempt, and U.S. and Israeli hegemony.

Commenting on these reports at a news conference yesterday, his eminence said: In Hizballah, we have chosen a course with our complete will. We have firm belief and faith in what we do for the sake of right and legitimacy in harmony with human conscience and the historic responsibility to our people during this stage. For he who is ready to shoulder such responsibilities, martyrdom is a wish and hope. We also look forward to achieving victory, dignity, and liberation for our people, nation, land, and all sanctities.

He noted that the death of a number of Zionist soldiers in preparation for the [assassination] operation and the subsequent cancellation of the plan do not abrogate the firm principle that these Jews are known for killing prophets, messengers, and believers. What differs, he said, is the method and the people who implement [the plan]. Once they kill, they search for other people to murder, using the same or different tactics. Here is Hasan Nasrallah's recording:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] We were not surprised by this kind of [word indistinct], because we know this enemy well. We know his way of thinking, background, and terrorist methods of action. We are waging a war and resistance against an enemy whom we understand deeply and about which Almighty God has spoken in his holy book [words indistinct].

Actually, as I said, this did not come as a surprise. It was expected not only to take place against me, but also against all mujahidin and those who refuse to allow their nation to live under humiliation, contempt, and U.S. and Israeli hegemony. I believe that any struggler expects to face such a possibility at any time.

To comment on this, I would like to say that we in Hizballah, along with all fellow mujahidin, have chosen our path with our full will. We have a firm belief and faith in what we do for sake of right and legitimacy in harmony with human conscience and the historic

responsibility to our people during this stage. He who is ready to shoulder such responsibilities, martyrdom for him is a wish, hope, and goal. We also look forward to achieving victory, pride, and liberation for our people, nation, land, and all sanctities.

The Israeli enemy must learn a lesson from its experience with us. The Israeli enemy must understand that we are a different kind of people. The Israeli enemy's assassination of His Eminence Secretary General Martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi and his wife and child truly was a fatal mistake. We described it at the time as a folly.

The assassination of 'Abbas al-Musawi gave an important and strong impetus to the resistance operations in the south and western al-Biq'a. Even the Israeli enemy himself regards the operations that have been carried out over the past few months as the most important and violent in the years of the resistance struggle against the Israeli occupiers. The Israeli has to understand that this is the price of the blood of the prince of the Islamic Resistance, 'Abbas al-Musawi, and the price of the blood and the injustice meted to his martyred wife and his martyred son. This enemy has to understand that when he kills a member of a family who belongs to Hizballah and to the resistance, then the whole family—from father to son, brothers, sisters, and relatives—turns to this (course). What the enemy believes to be a weakening of this course only increases our people's awareness, strengthens our nation's determination, and bolsters the serious and final determination toward this option, which we have chosen of our own free will. When we speak about the factors for Hizballah's success in the parliamentary elections, then I certainly and seriously can say that one of the most important factors that contributed to this popular backing and support was the blessed and unjust martyrdom of the prince of Islamic Resistance martyrs, 'Abbas al-Musawi.

As far as we are concerned, being killed is normal. Martyrdom is God's (reward) for us. As far as we are concerned, we are determined and the decision is final. These attempts only strengthen us, entrench us, deepen our roots, popularize our movement, and fortifies this [word indistinct]. Therefore, we do not fear these attempts.

The final matter I want to comment on is the terrorism of this Zionist entity and the terrorist tools this entity is using. The West, which claims to protect human rights and issues lists of countries that violate human rights, is remaining silent over the artificial entity in our Arab and Islamic world. Israel has usurped occupied Palestine and is killing women and children, destroying houses with them inside, and dispersing an entire people. It has been threatening the region's security and peace for many years. It harbors intentions of destruction, ruin, hegemony, and control. But all this is not considered terrorism. This is very regrettable and is not surprising for the West, which has shown its cards and exposed its stand and slogans to all the oppressed peoples in the world.

Against the Israeli enemy's terrorism, we emphasize our determination to proceed along this course until victory or martyrdom. [end recording]

In reply to a question from a correspondent on the link between the Zionist crimes against Muslims in Lebanon and the world and the stands taken by some Arab regimes regarding the Islamic revival, His Eminence Nasrallah said:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] There certainly is the possibility of [word indistinct] by those fearing the increasing Islamic movement and awakening in the Arab and Muslim world and inside the usurping Zionist entity, because it believes that the growth of this movement and the increased awakening will entrench the roots of the trend of revival and resistance across the Arab and Islamic world, which according to the principles and concepts of this trend, cannot capitulate to this enemy's will or to U.S. hegemony and cannot squander a single inch of the sacred Arab and Islamic soil. [end recording]

On the significance of leaking the report about the [assassination] operation's failure in this way, His Eminence Nasrallah said:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] This leak does in fact warrant pondering. There must be an in-depth study of the political and security motives for this [word indistinct]. There is one [word indistinct] possibility. We know, and those who follow press reports also know, that there has been talk for several months about competition and struggle between Israeli Army generals; a struggle for position and power. The failure of their fortifications, the number of those killed, and the extent of these deaths' effect on the situation inside the Israeli entity could constitute a valid condemnation of some generals in this entity. So far I cannot claim that there is accurate understanding of the motives, but this is one of the possibilities under consideration. [Words indistinct] power struggle and competition inside the Israeli entity and inside the military establishment or between the warring political forces in Israel. But, as I said, this is a matter for reflection and the political and security motives should be studied. This might become clear shortly. [end recording]

Asked if Hizballah had information about this failed operation before it was exposed, the Hizballah secretary general replied:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] I cannot specify anything about this, but we are always (aware of) the continuous Israeli aggression targeting all mujahidin. [end recording]

Finally, Nasrallah was asked if this operation's failure—due to the deaths of the five men who were to have implemented it—means that the Zionists will cease thinking about this kind of operation. He said:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] [words indistinct] this operation [words indistinct] search for new (targets) does

not amend the Zionists' firm principle. They are historically known for killing prophets, messengers, and believers—beginning with their own prophets—their attempts to murder other prophets, and conspiracies against all men of values [words indistinct] in the history of mankind.

This principle is not (Rabin's); it originates from his grandfathers and great-grandfathers. It is a constant principle; what differs is the method and the perpetrators [words indistinct] search for others. They may reply with the same tactic or use a different one. A wary person must take all possibilities into consideration. [end recording]

Hizballah Deputy Reacts

NC2611084592 Ba'labakk: Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Commenting on the plot to assassinate Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, [Hizballah] Deputy

Muhammad Hasan Yaghi has said that these treacherous and vile attempts are a deep-seated hostile policy and sordid and contemptible measures which result from true impotence and moral weakness in confronting the resistance fighters face-to-face in the battle arena. He added that the Zionists, who are cowardly and meek, can only stand behind fortified walls and the advanced military machine which the U.S. Administration is providing them for free to kill and annihilate us.

Deputy Yaghi went on to say: Let Zionist terrorist [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin and all the treacherous Zionists know that we are stronger than all their schemes and all the base aggressions they are preparing for us. Our struggling Islamic symbols, from the secretary general to all the resistance bases, are remaining in the arena of jihad and confrontation until God grants us victory or martyrdom.

Al-Assad Holds Talks With Lebanese Leaders*JN2611192092 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 92*

[Text] President Hafez al-Assad received at 1400 today Ilyas al-Hirawi, the president of Lebanon; Nabih Birri, the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; and Rafiq al-Hariri, the Lebanese prime minister.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zuhri.

After a working luncheon hosted by the president, the two presidents and those who took part in the meeting, resumed the talks they began at the first meeting.

At the meeting and the working luncheon, talks dealt with the international situation, its effect on the region, and the current peace process in light of the stages covered so far.

The views were identical on adherence to the constants on which the peace process is based, and the importance of coordination between the two countries and the rest of Arab parties to the process.

They reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the progress realized in the formation and activation of constitutional establishments.

The president said Syria welcomes anything that strengthens Lebanon and normalizes various aspects of life in it. He said Syria highly appreciates the positive and important steps realized in sisterly Lebanon. He reiterated that Syria is prepared to extend any possible assistance to the Lebanese brothers.

Al-Hariri Presses Meeting*JN2711070192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has praised the outcome of yesterday's meeting between Presidents Hafez al-Assad and Ilyas al-Hirawi.

In a statement to journalists before leaving Damascus for Beirut after attending the meeting, al-Hariri said: The results reflected the extent of brotherly fruitful cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries on all levels.

Al-Hariri noted that President Hafez al-Assad has reaffirmed Syria's support and backing for the efforts of the legitimate Lebanese Government, as well as its recent positive and significant steps to bring life in Lebanon back to normal and provide security and decent living conditions to all Lebanese.

Al-Hariri answered questions on the peace process as well as Lebanese-Syrian and inter-Arab coordination. He stressed the importance of this coordination and said Lebanon is very concerned with Arab coordination over the peace process out of its belief in the unity of both cause and destiny.

Al-Hariri affirmed that the liberation of all Lebanese territory will remain the top priority for the Lebanese Government, which will always seek to be the genuine representative of Lebanon's people and their goals and aspirations.

Khaddam Receives Iranian Foreign Ministry Official*JN2511213792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] At 1230 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Muhammad Kazem Khonsari, director general of the Middle East and North Africa Directorate at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhbari.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the regional situation and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Forces Clash in Jhal on Saraj

LD2611112092 (Clandestine) Radio Message of
Freedom in Pakistan to Afghanistan 0830 GMT
26 Nov 92

[Text] According to a report by a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom, clashes between troops of Shura-e Nazar and of the well-known communist Sarwar Chonta are widening in Jhal on Saraj district. As a result of renewed clashes, one person was killed and three injured from both sides.

Leadership Council Meets, Discusses Dress Code

LD2611160192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pakistan 1430 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] A Leadership Council meeting was held this morning at Gorkhona Palace of the State Presidency. It was chaired by esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and state president. There were several topics on the agenda.

Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asaf Mohseni, spokesman for the Leadership Council, told a Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent about the decisions of today's meeting of the Leadership Council.

He said that the Leadership Council strongly urged all Moslem sisters of the country to adhere to the Islamic dress code outside their homes. In this connection, the Ministry of Education and Training is commissioned to draw the attention of schoolgirls to observing the Islamic dress code. Esteemed ulama should publicize observation of the Islamic dress code in mosques and propaganda centers and encourage women to observe it.

Those taking bribes will be [words indistinct], besides incurring other punishment, until their dismissal from duty. Those offering bribes will also be subject to Shari'ah punishment.

The central commission of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council was instructed to invite 45 Afghan scholars and politicians living abroad to take part in one of its meetings.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Islamabad Conference

LD2611153492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pakistan 1430 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Esteemed Seyyed Soifyman Gaylani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, left today for Pakistan at the head of a delegation which will take part in the Economic Cooperation Organization conference scheduled to be held in Islamabad.

Esteemed Jamil Shams, deputy foreign minister and director of the second political section and representative of the protocol department of this ministry, is also in the delegation. [passage omitted]

India

Court Empowers Government on Ayodhya Enforcement

BK2511164092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The Supreme Court today said that the central government is at liberty to make its own assessment of the situation in Ayodhya and take constitutionally proper steps to avert any violation of the court orders. This was stated by a division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah and Mr. Justice G.N. Roy, after the Uttar Pradesh Government filed an affidavit declining to give specific assurance to stop resumption of kar seva [community service for temple construction] from the 6th of next month.

The affidavit, however, sought a week's time for direct negotiations with the leaders of the religious groups to persuade them not to precipitate the matter. The hearing of the case was adjourned till Friday, making it clear to the Uttar Pradesh Government that if it fails to come forward with any convincing assurance, the court might appoint a receiver for the disputed structure at Ayodhya and direct the union government to ensure that the court orders prohibiting any construction on the acquired land are obeyed.

Earlier, the attorney general and counsels for petitioners brought to the court's notice that the situation in the state is reaching a boiling point and called for urgent preventive measures. Taking note of the situation, the judges said that men in the responsible administrative positions should display statesmanship to ensure that it does not result in social disequilibrium. Indicating that the issue is sensitive and not just the question of construction of a simple structure, the judges said the construction symbolizes the demolition of constitutional institutions when the state fails to uphold the orders of the highest court of the land.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, says his government will make efforts till the last minute to avoid a confrontation on the Ayodhya issue. Addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi today, he reiterated that the Center will implement the Supreme Court orders on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue and also discharge the responsibility cast on it by the Constitution. Mr. Rao said whatever was done to defuse the situation during the last four months was set at naught by the inexplicable step of announcing the date for kar seva. He regretted that the country has been subjected to harassment on the basis of a nonexistent issue.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has expressed the hope that a solution to the Ayodhya dispute can be found before the proposed resumption of *kar seva* on the 6th of next month. He was replying to a question of propriety in the state assembly today. Mr. Kalyan Singh said the first priority of his government is to ensure the security of the disputed structure in Ayodhya. He added that his government will never violate any court order and will always uphold the Constitution. Noisy scenes followed the chief minister's statement and the speaker had to adjourn the house for 15 minutes.

The AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] general secretary, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, says that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] appears to be heading for a confrontation on the Ayodhya dispute. Speaking to newsmen in Lucknow today, he said the Center will explore all possibilities of a negotiated settlement.

The Janata Party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has demanded the dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh Government if it colludes with the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] in the construction of the Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya. Dr. Swamy was speaking to newsmen in Bangalore today.

Rao Talks With Envoys of 5 Muslim Countries

BK2711103792 Delhi *INDIAN EXPRESS* in English
18 Nov 92 p 11

[Text] New Delhi—The Indian envoys in five Muslim nations were hurriedly summoned to New Delhi last week for confidential consultations with the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue.

Significantly, although the envoys were initially to have met Mr. Rao for a group discussion on the issue, the Prime Minister suddenly changed his mind and met the diplomats individually on different days.

On the surface, the objective of the exercise appears to have been two-fold—one to counter anti-India propaganda which Pakistan is believed to be spreading in these countries and the other to discuss the manner in which some of these nations with different religious groups have handled disputes over mosques.

However, government circles feel that with the VHP's [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] *kar seva* [voluntary temple construction service] slated to resume from December 6, an urgently conducted exercise like this could have important ramifications on future developments on the Ayodhya issue.

The speculation is strengthened by the fact that the Prime Minister indicated to these envoys that the discussions were of an informal nature and not for the record.

The Heads of Mission who air-dashed to New Delhi for the consultations were the Ambassador in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Ishtar Aziz, the Ambassador in Abu Dhabi, Mr. Ranjit

Sethi, the Ambassador in Egypt, Mr. Arundhati Ghosh, and the Charges d'Affaires in Nigeria and Indonesia.

A sixth envoy, the Ambassador in Iran Mr. Hamid Ansari, was also called since he was already in New Delhi for the Indo-Iran Joint Commission meeting.

The envoys first had detailed discussions with the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Ayodhya, Mr. Narish Chandra, during which the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, and the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. S. Rajagopalan, were also present.

In this meeting, they were briefed on the developments that have taken place in Ayodhya till date. The officials also explore ways in which to counter the false propaganda that is being spread in these countries through buffets, etc. about the harassment of Muslims in India.

With Pakistan taking up the Babri Masjid dispute as another cause in its propaganda war against India, it is significant that the government here is seeking support in Muslim countries that have significant religious minorities and are by and large secular in orientation like Nigeria, Egypt, and Indonesia.

Paper Preview Possible Clinton Policy

BK2611135492 Delhi *PATRIOT* in English
9 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "India After Clinton Win"]

[Text] US President-elect Bill Clinton's first foreign policy pronouncement does not contain any reference to Asia. One reporter has seen in it his Euro-bias. It is generally believed that so far he has not taken much interest in foreign policy issues. On one occasion, as the governor of Arkansas, he spoke sharply against denial by the Bush Administration of the aid Mikhail Gorbachev needed to overcome Soviet economic difficulties. He also criticized the Administration for not being firm enough with the Chinese after the Tiananmen Square suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations. And more recently he was critical of Bush for his failure to intervene in Yugoslavia. These statements suggest that he intends to play an active role in international affairs. His first pronouncement has promised continuity in foreign policy.

It is said that Clinton is more firmly committed to democracy, liberalized economy, human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. However, American presidents, whether Democrat or Republican, while professing these ideals, supported in the past military rulers and dictators who served American interests. They have allowed human rights to be crushed in satellite regimes and in countries like Pakistan and South Korea. They also turned their eyes as Israel, South Africa and some others, including Pakistan, built military nuclear capabilities. [sentence as published] Earlier as one of the two superpowers and lately the sole surviving superpower.

the America holds that it is its right and duty to ensure compliance of its version of certain ideals and values by the rest of the world.

India's record as a democracy is exemplary. Its human rights situation is far better than that of most countries. It is taking great pains to liberalize its economy. And, on nuclear non-proliferation, its position is well-known. While seeking a non-discriminatory nuclear weapons control regime, it has worked to ensure the safety and security of its nuclear power plants and laboratories. Yet, on all these India has been under pressure from the Bush Administration. And now the US Ambassador in India has hinted that Clinton's interest, as far as India is concerned, on precisely those counts will be "accentuated." Indian opinion is not unprepared for this. But there are some in this country who believe that India would be better off under Clinton.

For one, they say Democrats have always been more friendly to India. For another, people like former Indian ambassador to Washington Abid Hameed think that the well-known US tilt towards Pakistan will be reversed. There are still others who hold that Clinton's primary concern is US economic recovery and that its full-out will benefit India in terms of trade and aid. Many hope that a friend like former Congressman Stephen Solarz's induction in the State Department will give India better hearing in that body. But all this is in the future.

Meanwhile it would be wise to assume that the incoming Democratic Administration would be unopposed in wanting that India sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], join the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime], toe the US demand on the intellectual property rights and trade-related issues, and the Democrats would allow misuse of concern for human rights to the advantage of secessionists and terrorists trained and provisioned by India's adversaries. It is fervently hoped that India's External Affairs Ministry has had time to study the changes and continuity to be expected in America's foreign policy in the remaining years of this century.

First Israeli Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK2611131692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] India has expressed the hope that the ongoing West Asia peace process will succeed in finding a just and honorable settlement to the problems. Receiving the credentials from the first Israeli ambassador to India, President Shankar Dayal Sharma said India, true to its commitment, is participating in all the five groups of the multilateral peace process.

The Israeli ambassador, Mr. Efraim Dorek, said a new era in the bilateral relations between the two countries is taking off. He expressed his country's gratitude to India for agreeing to take an active part in the peace process.

Pers To Visit; Rao Invited To Visit Pakistan

BK2611055692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0435 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed yesterday that the prime minister has received an invitation from the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, to visit Islamabad. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in a written reply said it was under government's consideration.

In another written answer, Mr. Faleiro said the Israeli foreign minister is expected to visit India.

Pakistan's Pakistani Defense Survey Criticized

BK2711100692 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
21 Nov 92 p 9

[By Pravin Sawhney: "Jane's misreads data on Pakistan"]

[Text] A survey of Pakistan's defence services conducted in the recent issue of the prestigious JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY has sparked off a debate amongst military brass, on the merits of the report.

It is felt that the report is based on faulty assumptions, and misses the real thrust of Pakistani military achievements at strategic and operational levels.

An important reason given for Pakistani raised self-confidence is the 'Zarb-e-Momin' exercise conducted in 1989. According to the then propounded doctrine of 'offensive-defence', while the "air force and navy are seen as fighting essentially defensive battles, the army undertakes a strategic offensive." This is a self-defeating argument, as it presupposes the Indian air force as being impotent.

The recent Gulf War has established, beyond doubt, the decisive role of the air power in land operations.

Even the supposition that since the Indian Army is deployed in internal security operations in two border states, it is incapable of launching a ground offensive against Pakistan, is incorrect.

What needs to be noted is that the forces deployments both in Punjab and Kashmir are such that they are available in situ (and are not required to move from their permanent locations inside the country) to provide depth to any Pakistani offensive on the Indian first line of defence.

The artillery is well trained as it fires in response to Pakistani provocations regularly along the Line of Control. And armour has hardly been employed in internal security duties. Therefore, after blunting the main Pakistani offensive effort, the Indian army—after fast regrouping—will retain enough capabilities for an operational level counter-offensive.

This would also be a likely response to the Pakistani 'offensive-defence' doctrine (which visualises a preemptive offensive) to then adopt a defensive posture to retain gains before operational stalemate is reached.

This doctrine is necessitated by the fact that Pakistan—with limited military capabilities and lacking depth—would invariably prompt an offensive. It is for this reason that Pakistan retains an edge over India in having institutionalised planning and effected joint services functioning at higher military levels. And at lower levels, instead of increasing forces, incremental addition of equipment and force multipliers are being done. These important thrusts of Pakistan military direction have been missed by JANE'S survey.

Probably the biggest achievement has been the unambiguous control and coordination of all air defence and ground-based air defence assets under the Pakistan Air Force. This has resulted in real-time communications between air-defence assets, under command of the three services. Earlier the Pakistani army air defence corps was separated from the artillery and upgraded to a command level, which is now under the overall national control.

Further, a new line of manportable surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), consisting of the recently acquired French Mistral, has been created.

All rotary aircraft have been placed under the army aviation corps. How much better this single service management (unlike India where the aviation corps is a house divided between the army and air force), would contribute towards optimal utilisation of helicopters hardly requires an explanation.

The creation of a mechanised division by the end of 1994 is a pointer that Pakistan plans on having three strike corps, one being a light corps centered around the mechanised division. This also pre-supposes that the Pakistan defence budget, whether reflected or hidden, will increase at a rapid rate.

The 1992-93 defence budget reportedly set at \$ 3.3 billion already includes procurement and defence research, which is now the responsibility of the newly created Ministry of Defence Procurement.

Delinked from the Ministry of Defence in 1991, and loaded with professional soldiers, the prime task of the Ministry of Production would be to achieve self-reliance in defence equipment in a progressive manner. Notwithstanding the propaganda, the Heavy Industries Complex at Taxila started as a heavy re-build factory in 1971 and has progressed from maintenance to overhauls to rebuilding of heavy equipment, in a phased manner.

Today, Pakistan's defence industry is still embryonic, but has a definitive potential to take on major overhauls and rebuilds.

For the Pakistan Navy, considering its growing strike and surveillance capabilities, its main mission "to keep sea lines of communication and single Karachi port

open," as suggested by JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, appears misplaced. Determined not to be caught in a suicidal posture near the coast, as in the 1971 war, the navy's main task seems to be to deter and deny the superior Indian Navy to close up on its coast. This itself would ensure that lines of communications remain open.

Moreover, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), paramilitary forces for internal stability and the public relations set-up are more professional than their Indian counterparts. This is because they are headed by senior services officers, who remain posted of the strategic political and military requirements.

Inter-services public relations is headed by a serving major-general, and this explains Pakistani upbeat psychological operations. The depth of ISI penetration in the strategic areas of Kashmir and Punjab is evidence enough.

Unlike in India, the 80,000 strong paramilitary forces under the operational control of the Pakistani Ministry of Interior, is headed entirely by serving army officers. This means that it is really the services headquarters that command the paramilitary elements, who are, thereby, trained professionally.

Commentary Views Political Upheaval in Pakistan

IRK2511122302 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1910 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Commentary by P.C. Kapoor, special correspondent of PRESS ASIA INTERNATIONAL: "Political Turmoil in Pakistan"]

[Text] With the diminishing credibility of the Sharif government in Pakistan and the recovery from the bruised image of the People's Party following the collapse of corruption charges against Mr. Asif Zardari, Ms. Bhutto's husband, the opposition's conflict with the present government is going to intensify. All reports emanating from Pakistan tend to show that recent Benazir's march which received wide international media publicity may have indicated the beginning of the process of a political upheaval in Pakistan. Sharif may have succeeded in shorting the opposition demonstration, but the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] has bounced back as a credible challenger and in that sense Ms. Bhutto can claim that her political coalition has achieved a moral victory. She, however, needs to realize that despite the satisfaction she can derive from it, she has a long way to go before she can regain power at Islamabad. At the same time, she is bent upon having another march from Sindh to the North-West Frontier Province. She had already reached Lahore on a part of her program, when the last reports came in.

However, of greater import than Benazir's proposed journey to contact the masses is what can be termed as the first open call by the PDA for presidential intervention to oust Nawaz Sharif. At the same time, the extra effort the PDA is putting to keep its program going on seems geared toward achieving this object. The pertinent

question is: Will President Ghulam Ishaq eventually oblige the opposition? At the same time, one can say that Nawaz Sharif's problems have been compounded by a certain loss in international goodwill for Pakistan, especially in the West. In quick succession, both Britain and Germany have indicated a shift in their position over Kashmir at the foreign minister level and demands for declaring Pakistan a terrorist-state are gaining support in many chancelleries. In view of this, the PDA could not have found a better time to launch its offensive.

The speculation that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan might have quietly encouraged the long march may be right or wrong. If he has done so, it could very well be a tactical move to ensure that Nawaz Sharif under pressure lends support for a second term for the president. Ishaq Khan's appetite for political power appears undiminished and he might not hesitate to dislodge Sharif to perpetuate himself in office, just as he was instrumental in sacking Ms. Bhutto when she was prime minister and had questioned the president's powers.

The Nawaz Sharif government is trapped in its own logic of equating political dissent with rebellion. This is the long and short of the march the PDA refuses to call off and the regime is hell-bent on putting down. One is not in a position to interpret the Sharif administration's equation with the army leadership. It has reportedly had its ups and downs in recent months on the Sindh scenario. On her part, Ms. Benazir has refused to discuss presidential intervention. She also ruled out the possibility of PDA heads of parties going underground to evade arrest. By letting loose the sort of repression they have, she claimed, the government has only proved that the people are with us and not with them. Fast developing situation in Pakistan indicates that Nawaz Sharif had to soften his stand on the proposed visit of Ms. Bhutto to North-West Frontier Province. He announced that he would not stop her cross-country rail march to that province provided she, along with her supporters, does not indulge in illegal activities. In other words, she has yet scored another point against Nawaz Sharif's government.

Earlier, Pakistan prime minister had urged people to reject a long march by the opposition leader, Ms. Bhutto, and urged the people to join his march toward progress and prosperity. He said our march will be for removing poverty, opening of new schools colleges and dispensaries, and what not. Attacking the former prime minister's call for a long march to bring down his government, Sharif asked the people to decide which march they would join. This is how the political battle is being fought in Pakistan.

Bangladeshi 'Illegal Migrants' To Be Returned

BK2611092392 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The government has reiterated that the illegal migrants from Bangladesh will be sent back. This was stated by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, during question hour in the Lok Sabha today. Earlier, the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, said that the prime minister of

Bangladesh during her visit to India had agreed to create conditions to take them back. Replying to a supplementary, Mr. Jacob said several steps have been initiated to stop infiltration from Bangladesh. He said sufficient progress has been made in this regard.

Parliament Passes SAARC Anti-Terrorism Bill

BK2711032292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Rajya Sabha has passed the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Convention Suppression of Terrorism Bill 1992. The bill gives effect to the convention on the suppression of terrorism in SAARC countries, which was ratified by all the seven members and came into force on the 22d of August 1988. The convention aims at checking and eliminating terrorism in the SAARC region. It provides for punishment and extradition of terrorists and other measures for achieving the objectives of this convention.

Replying to a debate on the bill, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said that if there was a firm political will among the member countries, the malice of terrorism can be cured. Participating in the debate, most of the members condemned Pakistan's abetment of terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

Inflation Rate Decreases to Less Than 9 Percent

BK2711110492 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The finance minister, asserted in the Lok Sabha today that the country's overall financial situation is improving. Replying to supplementaries during the question hour, he said the inflation rate has come down to less than 9 percent from the 17 percent in September last year. The finance minister accepted the suggestion to monitor the income of rice millers who bought paddy at a cheap rate and made profits by selling the milled rice at a much higher rate. Replying to another question, the finance minister said the government has no proposal to set up a mutual fund in the public sector to finance small-scale industries.

Iran

Velayati Visit to Croatia Reported

Arrives in Zagreb

LD2511182992 Tehran IRNA in English
1745 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Zagreb, Nov. 25, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a political delegation arrived here Wednesday on an official visit to the newly-independent Republic of Croatia.

Velayati's visit, taking place on the eve of an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization

of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Saudi Arabia (Dec. 1-2), is considered important among political circles.

During his stay, Velayati will meet with the president, parliament speaker and other officials of the republic which became independent from former Yugoslavia on 25 June, 1991.

The republic has a population of 4.7 million of whom 100,000 are Muslims.

Critics Warn on Bosnia

LD2711093/92 Tehran IRNA in English
0907 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Zagreb, Nov. 27, IRNA—Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here Wednesday evening, after he took part in a press conference at the end of his first two-day official visit to Croatia.

He termed his talks with Croatian officials as "very useful" and said that bilateral relations, regional and international problems with focus on the current tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina were discussed with Croatian authorities.

He said that his scheduled flight to Bosnian besieged capital, Sarajevo was postponed due to "technical problems." "I was interested to pay a visit to Sarajevo before the upcoming meeting of member countries of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)," he said.

Asked whether the Western countries, using their monopoly over flights to Sarajevo had deliberately prevented his visit to the Bosnian capital he answered "maybe. There are many who are afraid of Iranian involvement in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

He specified that tens of thousands of people were killed, thousands of Bosnian women were raped, and this trend is continuing unabated. The West, however, is practically silent and has not undertaken any effective action for stopping these crimes.

He compared the Bosnian situation with that of the Persian Gulf war. "There, where their interests were involved they acted like that, but they are far less active here," he said.

"Iran is against the practice of Western countries in Bosnia, because they are tolerating the massacre and gross human rights violations," Velayati said replying to an American correspondent.

The Iranian foreign minister, informed the well attended press conference that he spoke twice Thursday with Bosnian President and Muslim Leader Alija Izetbegovic through telephone.

He has proposed to Izetbegovic to attend the OIC meeting in Saudi Arabia which has been called by Iran. He also said that the presence of Croatian foreign minister in the meeting as a guest would be useful.

Asked whether Iran and Islamic countries would intervene militarily to stop the war in Bosnia, Velayati said that all activities should be coordinated in the framework of norms of international community.

He denied the reports suggesting that Iran is sending arms to Bosnia. He particularly denied allegations that Iranian weapons were discovered in an airplane loaded with humanitarian aid.

Velayati said that Iran was supplying Bosnia-Herzegovina with oil and humanitarian relief. He mentioned that an Iranian flight loaded with humanitarian aid will arrive in Split Friday and will take 86 wounded Bosnian fighters to Tehran for further treatment.

"We supply Bosnia-Herzegovina directly with material and humanitarian assistance, rather than through UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)," he said.

UNHCR has not sent aid for two million Afghan refugees in Iran, according to Velayati.

After meeting with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and the Parliament Speaker Stipe Mesic Thursday, Iranian foreign minister had talks with trade and tourism minister shortly before leaving.

He informed the press conference that Croatian parliament speaker will visit Tehran in a few weeks. A joint economic commission between the two countries will also be formed soon.

Velayati and the high-ranking Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation Thursday visited the Bosnian Muslim refugee camp 10 km east of Zagreb, where 4000 mainly women, elderly and children are accommodated in the non-government-sponsored camp since May 1992.

In a tearful meeting, Iranian foreign minister spoke with several refugees who were following the delegation with women crying and children expressing their hatred towards Serbs.

Returns, Comments on Talks

NC271108/92 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0430 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran this morning after a few days of talks in Zagreb with Croatian officials and Bosnia-Herzegovina President Izetbegovic.

Dr. Velayati described his talks with Croatian officials as extremely useful and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and Croatia discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues, especially the pitiful plight of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Referring to his two telephone conversations with the Bosnia-Herzegovina president, Dr. Velayati said that he had invited the president to attend the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] foreign ministers session in Jeddah in order

to inform the ECO foreign ministers in detail of the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Velayati added: Iran is determined to strengthen its relations with Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Croatian Parliamentary Speaker Stjepan Mesic is to visit Iran in the next few weeks and the Joint Iranian-Croatian Economic Commission soon will be established.

Regarding his inability to visit Sarajevo, Dr. Velayati said: Croatian officials and Bosnian President Izetbegovic informed us that due to an attack on a plane carrying first aid equipment, all flights to Sarajevo had been cancelled.

Alluding to the role of the West in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Velayati compared it to the Western reaction to the Persian Gulf war and remarked: The Western powers acted swiftly when their own interests were at stake, but here they are silent.

Our foreign minister refuted allegations that Iran has dispatched arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Commenting on his visit to the Muslim refugee camp in Zagreb, Velayati said: At present, the greatest problem for the Bosnian people is the scattering of their families. The refugees want the international community to find a way for them to return to their cities.

Stressing the upcoming session of Islamic countries' foreign ministers, Dr. Velayati expressed the hope that this session will yield effective results in halting the Serbs' atrocities.

Embassy To Be Opened in Georgia

LD2611104192 Tehran IRNA in English
0948 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Iran and Georgia Wednesday agreed that the former open its embassy in Tbilisi, in a near future. The agreement came between Iran's Foreign Ministry special envoy Behram Qasemi and the Georgian foreign minister in a meeting held in the Georgian capital.

Qasemi said Iran respects Georgia's territorial integrity and calls on the Georgians and Abkhazians to seek a "peaceful" settlement to their disputes.

It was also announced in the meeting that Georgian Chairman of the State Council of Ministers Eduard Shevardnadze would pay a visit to Tehran in the second half of January 1993.

Beharati, Saudi Envoy Discuss Jeddah Talks

LD2511123892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Beharati today received Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Tehran 'Abdullah Al-Maymani. In the course of their

meeting, Mr. Beharati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to have full and friendly relations with its neighbors, particularly the neighboring Arab states. Referring to the negative propaganda of some Western media, and following this, some regional media, against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Beharati said: By such propaganda they are trying to strain relations among the Islamic countries.

He added: On the eve of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Jeddah, which will convene to discuss Bosnia-Herzegovina and the crimes of the Serbs, there is a need for cooperation and unity of opinion among the Islamic countries so that practical and effective results are achieved to end the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to regional issues, Mr. Beharati said: Iran is one of the few countries that has no territorial claims against any regional country. He stressed: Clashes between any one country and another country will not serve the region's interests, and disputes must be solved by peaceful means.

OPEC Urged To Ban Saudi Oil Output Increase

LD2611140392 Tehran IRNA in English
1008 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—The 'TEHRAN TIMES' daily Thursday called on the OPEC members not to allow Saudi Arabia to increase its oil output and lower their national income under conditions that most OPEC members are gripped with serious economic problems.

Commenting on the ongoing 92nd OPEC General Conference in Vienna and the unexpected slump in oil prices, the English daily said, "the dip in oil price comes at a time when Saudi Arabia still persists on retaining its production of over 8 million barrels. If Saudi Arabia decreases its production by 500,000 barrels, OPEC will very easily gain access to the determined price of \$18.21."

"Apart from bringing in economic profit, this price can also provide the OPEC with political and economic credibility. And this is demanded by not only Iran, but many other countries membering the OPEC."

"If Saudi Arabia craves that it can rush to the aid of the West and relieve it of its current stagnation by providing cheap oil, it is gravely mistaken."

"Under circumstances where all producers of raw or synthetic material have increased the prices of their goods over the last year, why should oil revenues continue to proceed on a downward slope?"

"Now in a situation where most OPEC members are gripped with serious economic problems and foreign debts, they should not allow Saudi Arabia to fiddle like this with their national income which has close interrelationship with their national security," it concluded.

GCC Said To Show Way to Compromise With Qatar

*LD2611145592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1049 GMT 26 Nov 92*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In a positive move, the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] have said that the existing argument in the Gulf concerning the Iranian islands and relations with Iran should be resolved very calmly.

At the end of their session, the GCC foreign ministers stressed that there have been no new developments in the region on which they are adopting a stance. According to political analysts, this means that the GCC foreign ministers have in practice ignored Qatar's non-participation in their session and have avoided taking a stance on it, because they do not want to aggravate the existing crisis.

But perhaps this very declaration that they have not adopted new stances relates to issues that go beyond relations with Qatar, because in the opinion of the GCC foreign ministers, what is termed as the crisis of the three [disputed] islands can be resolved in a tranquil climate. Iran has taken some positive steps and has recently permitted the [United Arab] Emirate nationals and employees to return to Abu Musa Island.

Although the United Arab Emirate [UAE] foreign minister accused Iran of not wanting to talk about the UAE's demands, political observers believe that the UAE foreign minister's tone was mild.

Regarding Iran's arms purchases, which were recently greeted with much bellowing from the West and especially from the United States, one GCC foreign minister said to the others: We should not be too concerned about this.

A more interesting point is that a number of GCC foreign ministers have reiterated their demand that differences between Iran and some Arab governments, such as Egypt and Algeria, should not be reflected in the Persian Gulf region.

In any case, taking note of these stances, it could be said that after distancing herself for several months, the GCC has returned to its previous policy of strengthening relations with Iran. This deserves praise, since Iran continues to call for regional differences to be eliminated by means of reason and amicable talks. It also believes that foreign forces should not be allowed to interfere. Foreign powers are always waiting to take advantage of differences between friends and brothers so as to gain more footholds in the region. But despite foreigners' conspiracies, if Iran's friendly approach to the GCC is reciprocated, it could serve as the right model in efforts to eliminate differences between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

By pointing out that there have been no new developments calling for the adoption of new stances, the GCC foreign ministers have, in reality, paved the way for compromise with Qatar. There is no doubt that making efforts to eliminate differences within the region is very much better than asking foreign powers for help and signing security pacts with them.

UN Report on Human Rights in Iran Criticized

*LD2611121192 Tehran IRNA in English
1153 GMT 26 Nov 92*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—In its editorial Thursday the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said a U.N. report Tuesday on the status of the human rights in Iran was simply a prelude to a new lease of propaganda war against the Islamic Republic.

It said earlier on the Iranian officials had allowed U.N. human rights agent Reynaldo Galindo Pohl to visit Tehran four times on the naive assumption that he would witness the true status of the human rights in Iran and report to the United Nations accordingly.

The daily added the document that was issued by the United Nations Tuesday was in fact a much distorted copy of the original compiled by Pohl which, it said, had passed through malicious alterations by others in the wake of his meetings with many other people since his departure from Iran.

Galindo Pohl's report points out to several topics in too general terms directly or indirectly related to the status of the human rights in Iran some of which like polygamy, marriages of nine-year-old girls, and the dress code are rooted in age-old canon laws of Islam, and as such basically unalterable.

"They (the world arrogance) are always fishing for new topics whereby they can raise a scandal, and insinuate pernicious propaganda (against the Islamic Republic) and raise questions about the revolution and even about Islam," said the daily, adding, "the true intent of the world arrogance has not the least changed throughout the post-revolution years but it has become even more hostile."

"Due to our naivety and due to our own overtly simplistic analyses," said the editorial, "we concluded that some degree of leniency towards the enemies of humanity will help reduce at least a morsel of their enmity (with the Islamic Republic) and that by so doing we will have disarmed them. But today we see that exploiting the opportunities that they managed to be granted by us they (the United Nations and the U.N. Human Rights Commission) are now raising questions even about the precepts and the criteria of Islam and the operation of the revolution."

"The world arrogance shall not like our behavior as long as we have not yielded to the dictates of the West," said the editorial, adding, "as long as we are protesting their

crimes and as long as we blame them for their inhuman policies throughout the world it is all too obvious that they will not consider our policies, our position and our behavior as being suitable, and they will therefore try to raise questions even about the appropriateness of our basic principles.

"As far as relates to them (the world arrogance)," said the daily, "in their true intent 'the human rights' is simply a bludgeon, and it is obvious that bludgeon-wielders are not well-disposed to logic and argument with which one can guide them along the right path..."

Editorial Views Ankara Summit on North Iraq

NC2511124192 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 15 Nov 92 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Turkey and Iraq's Dismemberment"]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and Syria met in Ankara to discuss and exchange views and gain a perspective on issues of mutual interest and events in the region, particularly in northern Iraq.

It cannot be denied that a need exists to call such meetings among regional countries; in fact, such meetings should have been held much earlier. The sensitivity of issues and the overt and covert role of the Satanic powers that want to play a role in the regional events further highlights that such consultations are more necessary than ever before.

The tripartite session in Ankara placed the unfortunate events inside Iraq on the top of its agenda. It is clear that the world today is one of mutual relations and it is possible that the fallout of what is going on in Iraq may directly affect the neighboring countries. Turkey's experience indicates that insecurity can penetrate even from behind barbed wire and efforts to fragment others' territory are usually abortive. For over a decade, the diabolical powers and their local lackeys assigned the Iraqi regime to initiate secessionist movements inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Due to the awareness and acumen of our people in the border areas, however, the enemy's plots always failed and its agents in the region achieved nothing.

The government of Ankara did not reap any benefits from its support of the militant groups, especially the Monafegin [pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and has now been forced to revise its policy.

The blatant errors on the part of Baghdad in its crude and avaricious assessments paved the way for foreign intervention and interference in northern Iraq. By creating the so-called security zone in northern Iraq, the diabolical powers were able to sow the seeds of Iraq's dismemberment.

Unfortunately, the Ankara government has been assisting the United States, France, and Britain in reaching these objectives. Today, however, it has realized with much bitterness that the partition of Iraq is fraught with dangers even for the accomplices in this plot.

Today, Turkey's immense concern and haste in suppressing the Kurds is different than its policy of a few months ago, when it was participating in the establishment of a security zone to attain this plot's covert objectives. The Turkish president discussed the partition of Iraq at that time as if it were acceptable to Ankara. However, today it appears that Turkish politicians have realized the depth of the issue and have sensed that the dismemberment of Iraq would not benefit any of the regional countries. On the contrary, it would create a permanent hotbed of tension and would generate unrest in the neighboring countries, all of which would encounter problems of national security.

The tripartite session in Ankara is an opportunity to assess the roots of the problem, the dimensions of which have become more tangible and palpable even for Turkey. It would be a worthwhile if the issues is thrashed out well, with utter frankness so that a suitable solution may be found to every issue and problem.

When the government of Ankara awarded the secessionist leaders of Iraqi Kurdistan Turkish diplomatic passports so that they could go to the United States and hold talks with CIA officials, it gave its endorsement to the partition of Iraq, for all effective purposes. If it was seeking to reap political capital and propaganda for itself by such actions, it should await the inauspicious effects and repercussions of such unrealistic policies. It should also bear in mind the possibility that, perhaps tomorrow, the Turkish Kurds may be tempted to demand secession and follow the trail blazed by the Ankara government and to which it has given the seal of approval.

The partition of Iraq would not benefit anyone. It was important that this point be understood by the Turkish echelons earlier so that they would not have gone so far ahead in creating conditions for the implementation of the joint colonialist plots of the United States, Britain, and France in northern Iraq. It would have been better had Turkey not placed all its resources and borders at the disposal of these forces. Then they would not have been in such a hurry to call for the tripartite session, which they are now describing as their own initiative.

It is essential that Ankara appraise this issue in a more realistic manner. By understanding the effects and consequences of its past policies, Ankara should abstain from any kind of approach toward the tripartite that smacks of propaganda. In view of its investment in the events in northern Iraq, Turkey should reprimand itself and agree to change its political posture away from such an unprincipled approach.

A Persian adage on he who does not take into consideration the effects of his policies on others should be

remembered. It says: Death is alright for neighbors. In other words, people want the demise of their neighbors. Perhaps that is what the Ankara government wants! When the Ankara government invested in the conspiratorial plans of the West—especially in setting up so-called security zones in northern Iraq and issuing Turkish diplomatic passports to the Kurdish leaders and permitting those who engineered this plot to use its territory for access to northern Iraq—it did so regardless of the political repercussions, looking only for the demise of its neighbor, Iraq.

Today, Turkey has realized with much bitterness that its policies have resulted in the proliferation of insecurity coming from the secessionist demands in northern Iraq and have spilled over to Kurdish-inhabited areas of Turkey. Now it has been forced to grovel before its neighbors for assistance instead of seeking assignments from the West.

The Turkish press carried reports yesterday on Turkey's objectives in calling the meeting, describing these aims as to send a message to the West that despite foreign intervention, the regional countries are able to exchange views on regional events. They stressed that the West is apprehensive of the session and has given it a cold reception. Britain has called for an emergency session on the problems of northern Iraq. The British media has even said that the West has taken a negative stance on the Ankara summit, expressing its displeasure on the talks by maintaining silence.

Fortunately, the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on regional issues, particularly on Iraq, is quite clear and has not changed since the outset. From our vantage point, Iraq does not belong to Saddam and any harm to Iraq does not constitute harm to Saddam. The main point is that Iraq's independence and territorial integrity should be safeguarded. If the Kurds of northern Iraq have suffered at Saddam's hands, the solution is not to break up Iraq. That would only bring a plethora of problems in its wake. We also believe that the greatest problem of the Iraqi people will be solved by setting up a popular government acceptable to the oppressed Iraqi people.

It is precisely for this reason that despite all the crimes the Baghdad regime has unleashed on the nation and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Iran never supported and never will support the secessionist movements in Iraq for a moment. On the contrary, it has declared its serious and practical opposition to all kinds of secessionist movements and has done so as clearly as possible.

Iraq's partition should be prevented. In order to keep this from happening, all the countries of the region should act according to their responsibilities, especially Turkey, which should immediately terminate the trend of all preliminaries geared toward the fragmentation of Iraq. In general, all comings and goings of foreigners and fabricators of plots via Turkish territory to northern Iraq

should be halted. Otherwise, the Ankara summit will be unproductive, and we hope that is not the case.

Romanian Envoy Discusses Trade, Ties With Iran

*LD2511194292 Tehran IRNA in English
1359 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—Value of Iran-Romania trade exchanges has increased to dlr 500 million at present from dlr. 100 million in 1990 and is expected to go higher by the end of the year, said Romanian Ambassador Ioan-Emil Vasiliu here Wednesday.

In an interview with the press and the Iranian private investors on the eve of the Romanian national day (Dec 1), the ambassador added that Romania's share of the above figure is 100 million. Iran exports about 300 million dollars worth of oil plus 100 million dollars worth of non-oil products such as radiators, batteries, pistachio and citrus fruits, he elaborated.

Iran-Romania trade ties were at their peak in 1983-84 amounting to dollars one thousand million. They plummeted to dlr. 600 million in 1989 and to below 100 million after the revolution in Romania.

He said that a contract valued at dlr. 28 million has been signed between the two countries according to which Iran will resume its bus and car exports to Romania. Iran will import machine tools from that country.

Vasiliu expressed pleasure that Romanian tractors have absorbed 60 percent of the Iranian market, adding that he has proposed to Iranian officials that Romania set up a new tractor manufacturing company in Mashhad or Shiraz. At present, two cement factories are under construction in Iran in cooperation with Romania.

He envisaged broader exchanges of products, including petrochemicals and ferrous metals, between Iran and Romania.

Iran and Romania can also cooperate in shipping, fisheries, animal husbandry, tourism and agriculture, he said adding that the two countries can transport their products through three sea routes.

The ambassador announced that the forthcoming session of the Irano-Romanian Joint Economic Commission will be held in Tehran on December 20.

On Tehran-Bucharest political relations, Vasiliu said that they are dynamic and on an upward trend. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is expected to visit Romania on December 7-8, he disclosed.

On the economic situation in Romania, Vasiliu said that foreign investment has been fully liberated in the country and that foreign investors may own the whole capital of a company and take all of the capital and the acquired interest out of the country without any problem.

He said Iran and Romania have can further consolidate their ties and called for close ties between the two countries' news agencies.

Asked whether Romania has any foreign debt, Vasiliu said that his country had no debt when the communist ruler Nicolae Ceaucescu was ousted. He deplored that the no-debt status had been acquired at the expense of high poverty and famine and explained that many mothers and children used to starve to death in maternity hospitals or nursery schools. However, after the 1989 revolution, the new government has been granted three billion dollar of short-term loans.

On Bucharest's relations with Serbia and the reported violation of the U.N. imposed embargo against that country, he said the two countries have traditional ties and that after disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, his country has now common borders only with Serbia. He continued that the two neighbours also have close economic and industrial relations.

According to Vasiliu, Romania has accepted and fully implemented the U.N. Security Council sanctions against Serbia, and to prove her sincerity in this regard, she has invited foreign observers to check the situation along the common border. However, he added, Bucharest has adopted severe measures against Romania's private companies which violate the embargo to the extent that private cars, crossing over the border, are not allowed to fill their cars with more than 10 litres of petrol.

Vasiliu said that Romania favors peaceful settlement of the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue and that in no way supports genocide of the people. He stressed a political solution to the crisis started by the Serbs.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Tehran Basij Rally

LD2611172692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpts] On the occasion of 5 Azar [26 November], the anniversary of the issuing of the historical charter by His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeini, may God Almighty be pleased with him, regarding the formation of the 20-million-strong Basij [mobilization] army, a great maneuver [as heard] by more than 100,000 was held in the large Azadi stadium in Tehran. Our correspondents report on this.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] In the glorious gathering of the Basijis of Tehran Province, which is a reminder of the epic of the assembly of the 100,000 soldiers of His Eminence Muhammad, God's blessing be upon him and his scion, during the eight years of the holy defense, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a speech honoring the memory of the worthy martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, and praising the self-sacrifice of the our country's brave Basijis. He said: This most glorious gathering and the interesting celebrations

by you, the Basijis, will be commemorated in our country's history. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Discusses Islamic Guidance, Press

LD2511194092 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, in a meeting today with Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance 'Ali Larijani, his deputies, heads of subsidiary organizations and the general managers of that ministry, listed the Islamic guiding of the state, the expansion of culture in the community, and deepening and developing of cultural assets in the country, as the three general and fundamental duties of the Islamic Culture and Guidance. He commended the officials of that ministry to try to realize of those crucial duties.

The exalted leadership considered the addition of Islamic guidance to the Ministry of Culture to have been inspired by the Islamic philosophy, and he said: One of the principal duties of this ministry is the Islamic guiding and directing, at its highest level, in all the state cultural work and Islamic perception—with all its wealth, expanse, and clear-sightedness—this must be created in all state cultural work. [passage omitted]

In another part of his remarks, the leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the numerous issues of the arts, old and new, and while stressing the need to nurture and educate committed and religious youth in all artistic fields, he graciously said: Undoubtedly among our artists—especially the youth—there are religious and committed individuals who have created the required artistic fervor in the community through initiative and courage. But one must not be content with the extent of this. On the contrary, we must be intent on nurturing, educating, and encouraging Muslim artists who articulate Islamic truths and genuineness.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the need to confront those elements who, wittingly or unwittingly, are intent on dragging artistic issues to the opposite point of Islamic objectives. In this regard, he graciously said: In an Islamic community, art must conform to Islamic law, and deviation in artistic matters, in any form, is unacceptable.

The exalted leadership, referring to the great dimensions of the Islamic Revolution, added: Fourteen years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, many of the great dimensions of the revolution have yet to be recognized. Therefore, in explaining the dimensions of this great truth, our artistic community must pay its debt to the revolution through creating worthy works of art in all fields—especially the art of cinema—which will depict the great dimensions of the revolution.

Finally, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to press freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran and graciously said: We consider press freedom to be crucial

and respect it. Ever since the appearance and formation of the press in Iran, it has never enjoyed as much freedom as today. But this freedom does not mean that publications should exist in the country that implement the enemy's policies. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Reaction to Opposition Activities Noted

Government 'Ready for Dialogue'

BK2511105592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
25 Nov 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] Lahore—Malik Muhammad Naeem Khan, Federal Commerce Minister, said here Tuesday that the government is ready for dialogue with the opposition to resolve the differences.

Talking to newsmen at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Malik Naeem said that problems cannot be solved through violence and damaging public property. "Now when democratic institutions are working, it is unlawful to seek solutions to political problems through violent protests. The government is ready to negotiate with the opposition at any time," said Malik Naeem, who is regarded a close confidant of Prime Minister [PM] Nawaz Sharif.

This is the third time that an offer of dialogue has been aired by the government. Previously, Chandry Nisar Ali Khan, another close associate of the PM and federal minister for petroleum, had made two similar offers. All the three offers were made through press. Malik Naeem confirmed that no formal initiative at the government level was taken, except the press statements, to invite the opposition to dialogue.

Malik did not agree with a view of a questioner that the government resorted to brutal use of force to suppress the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] long march. He said the use of force against violent plans of the PDA was essential to ensure peace and order in the country. "Safeguarding the life and property of the people is the first and foremost duty of a government. The government may use hundred times more force to discharge its duties according to the constitution," said tall and smiling Malik Naeem.

Criticising the politics of Benazir Bhutto, the minister said that she is losing her patience unnecessarily. She is young and has many years to do effective politics, observed Malik Naeem, and said that she should wait for the elections, which are as near as 1995. By indulging in violent politics, she is not doing justice to her political career, said Malik Naeem. He dismissed any chance of premature dissolution of the government.

To a question that whether the government plans to convene a round table conference to diffuse tension in politics, he said there are only a couple of political leaders who really matter. "To talk to them does not

require a round table. We can make them sit face to face." He elaborated that only Benazir Bhutto and Asghar Khan are resorting to violent protest, while the rest of the politicians are not supporting the long march. He invited Benazir Bhutto to talk on "substantial issues."

Bhutto Holds News Conference

BK2511140192 Islamabad THE NATION in English
25 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Text] Multan—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that existing government has no legal, moral, and constitutional right to rule the country, as it has come into power as a result of rigged elections. She declared that her party would nationalise all privatised industrial and non-industrial units where economic frauds had been committed and higher bidders been ignored to benefit the favourite few.

Addressing a news conference here on Tuesday while she was on her way to Lahore by Khyber Mail, Ms Benazir Bhutto told that her party wanted to bring changes in the country within the framework of existing system. She informed that PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] had larger objectives of long march and formation of national government was the main [objective]. She said that the PDA wanted the holding of free and fair general elections under the supervision of an independent Election Commission.

In reply to a question, Ms Bhutto said that the proposed national government would hold general elections within 90 days as is mandatory under the Constitution. She also ruled out imposition of Martial Law as a result of PDA's long march adding that Martial Law was not a solution of the current chaotic political situation. She clarified that PDA was not in favour of Martial Law and COAS [Chief of Army Staff], Gen. Asif Nawaz, had also refuted such reports. She said that we are fighting for political solution of existing crisis and now it depends upon Mian Nawaz Sharif and his Cabinet for how long they prolong it. Martial Law was no answer to the problem, and we are fighting for democracy with the aim to attain a political solution. Now it is up to Mian Nawaz Sharif whether he wants transfer of power politically or desires Martial Law, she observed.

PPP Co-Chairperson alleged that the government was not sincere to dialogues with the Opposition and it was trying to blackmail her by threatening her and her husband. She announced that she could not be harassed through [words indistinct]. She was reluctant to comment over the reaction of the President about PDA's long march, saying that she did not know about his point of view. She clarified that she did not have any personal enmity against Mian Nawaz Sharif, and she was fighting only for the right of the poor people. She told that if she had personal enmity against him, then she did not have to let her husband languish in jail. She said that a murder attempt had been made at Begum Nusrat Bhutto, and

her own life was threatened. But she was not worried, as her family members had devoted their lives for the country and the people.

She alleged that the government was not sincere in the development of the country and prosperity of its people. She accused that the Prime Minister was acquiring lands to develop more and more industrial estates so that he could get richer than ever. She also alleged that the Prime Minister was ("making") huge amounts of money through the Motorway Project.

Criticizing the government further Ms Bhutto said that the rulers could not think about the economic uplift of the common man because they were concentrating on self-protection. She asked why Multan, where a large industry was existing, was still backward. She strongly opposed the Motorway Project and said that if she got power she would shelve it. She told that she was not against privatisation but she was against economic frauds and economic crimes. She argued that under international law and the Constitution of the country all projects where economic frauds or crimes had been committed could be suspended. She declared that she would not allow any foreign company to mint money on the cost of the poor people of Pakistan.

Commenting on the idea of referendum presented by the Prime Minister, Ms Bhutto viewed that she had no belief in his ideas which he rapidly changed. She said that once the Prime Minister wanted to hoist flag on the Red Fortress of Delhi, liberate the Occupied Kashmir, and establish Islamic government in Afghanistan, but now he had backed out.

She urged the Army and the bureaucracy to be neutral in the fight of the government and the Opposition, and obey only valid and written orders. She urged the police not to work as Mian Nawaz Sharif's personal force, otherwise, she warned, it would have to be accountable before the people. She alleged that certain elements in connivance with drug mafia were operating against popular forces.

In reply to a question whether her party would again nationalise all privatised units after coming into power, she clarified that she would take action where economic fraud or serious irregularities had been committed and proper procedures of privatisation had been violated. Her government would not touch those industrial and non-industrial units which had been privatized properly and their owners should not be worried, she observed. She said that she herself introduced privatisation bill in the National Assembly but she was against economic fraud.

Paying tribute to the people of Multan, Ms Bhutto said that they always played a vital role in every political movement and she was happy to learn that the lawyers, women, and minorities had staged protest rallies in Multan, Lahore, and Khanewal. She hoped that the students and other sections of the society would also join PDA's long march. She told that train march had been

initiated on behalf of those people who could not reach Islamabad on account of tight security and to mount pressure on the government. She alleged that under Plan No. 7, the government had sealed all roads and erected barricades to prevent the people from coming to the Railway Stations throughout Punjab. She said that 2,000 policemen were deployed at Rahawalpur Railway Station who baton-charged the PDA supporters. But even then a large number of people from rural areas were able to break through and express their solidarity with the long march, she concluded.

Earlier addressing PDA workers and supporters who had gathered at Multan Cantt [Cantonment] and City Railway Stations despite the blockaded roads to greet their leader on Tuesday noon, Benazir Bhutto has announced that PDA's long march will continue till the end of the Nawaz Government. She said that the wrong policies of the government had compelled PDA to launch the long march for protecting the rights of the masses.

Ms Bhutto maintained that her party had sat in the assemblies in spite of massive rigging in the elections for the sake of democracy, but the corruption of the government had forced them to stage a full-fledged protest campaign against the rulers. She claimed that the people were fed up with the present regime, which was a puppet in hands of foreign masses.

She bitterly criticised Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and alleged that he was vindictive and his policies were more harmful to the country than beneficial to the people.

She contended that growing inflation and price-hike of commodities had made the life of a common man unbearable. She urged the masses to fully participate in the long march to get rid of the present rulers.

Ms Bhutto, amid clapping and applause, announced that the PDA march would continue and be successful. She said that now the people from Karachi to Khyber had come out on the roads and were demanding the ouster of the present government. She asserted that the popular will of the masses could not be suppressed through coercive measures. She ("saluted") her supporters who had come to the station to greet her in despite of police obstacles.

She said that the people's participation in the long march had proved that the government had lost confidence and now it was perpetuating its rule through coercive means. She said that she was with the masses and would always remain with them till their rights were restored. Ms Bhutto also shared the slogan, "Nawaz Sharif Al-Wida, Nawaz Sharif Al-Wida" [Nawaz Sharif, Goodbye]. She appeared happy to see her supporters who shouted "Waziray-Azam Benazir" [Prime Minister Benazir] repeatedly. She enthusiastically responded the slogans by waving her hand. She was flanked by her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, who also welcomed the supporters.

While addressing the PDA supporters, Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, alleged that the present government was the result of massive rigging and the PDA would continue its long march till the rulers were dislodged. He said that the nightmare started when these rulers came into power but it would soon end, and the people would have a happy break. He alleged that the government was pushing the masses into difficulties by raising the prices of essential items and services and plundering the national exchequer. He asserted that long march against the government, in fact, was a reaction against its anti-mass policies.

In his brief address, PDA Secretary-General, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, said that enthusiastic participation of the people in the long march had indicated that Benazir Bhutto would be the next Prime Minister. He further said that the end of the government was near and the rulers could not save themselves from the reaction of the people. He advised the people to share PDA's long march which had been launched to (free) them from the oppression of the rulers.

Malik Mohammad Qasim, while addressing the gathering, alleged that the government was working against national interests and usurping the rights of farmers, labourers and the middle class. He accused that the government, which was not serving the interests of the country and its people, had no right to remain in power.

Amir Hussain Gilani, a leader of TNFI [Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Fiqah-i-Jafria], Sardar Shaukat Hussain Mazari and Ilyas Khan, Advocate, also addressed the gathering. However Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi did not address and only welcomed the supporters by waving his hand. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, MNA [member of National Assembly] and Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan joined the train march from Multan.

The PDA workers and supporters accorded a warm welcome to Ms Bhutto and her companions when they reached Multan Cantt, City and Piran Chah Railway Stations. They rushed to the said railway stations in spite of tight security measures taken by local administration.

Police had created barriers at all roads going to the City and Cantt Stations and then [word indistinct] every one including journalists and Press photographers. It did not allow even the passengers having tickets and advised them to wait for two hours. Heavy contingents of Police and Punjab Constabulary were deployed at Dera Adda, Aziz Hotel Chowk, Double Phatak, Chowk Shaheedan and Wilayatnabad to check the entry of PDA workers and supporters into Cantt and City Stations. Railway Police were also deployed at the stations to assist the district police in case of any emergency.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Multan, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner, Magistrates and police high-ups were also present at [name indistinct] Railway Station to manage the situation. However, no untoward incidence was reported during Ms Bhutto's arrival at Multan Cantt and City Stations. PPP workers stopped

the train when it started rolling out of Cantt Station. They walked in front of the engines in order to force the driver to run the train slowly. The driver had to stop the train at many points because of PPP workers blocked the track. The enthusiasm among PDA supporters also persuaded Ms Bhutto to come out of her bogey and respond to her greeters. The train took more than two hours to pass through the Cantt and City Station and it reached Khanewal about three hours late. Dozens of PDA workers, who were sitting on the roof of the bogey in which Benazir Bhutto was travelling refused to come down in spite of repeated requests of the railway administration. They travelled in the same condition till Khanewal Railway Station where they had to come down due to the overhead electric line.

Our Hyderabad Correspondent adds:

The Leader of the Opposition Benazir Bhutto has declared that the masses would continue their protest movement against what she called the product of Martial Law and massively-rigged polls government of Nawaz Sharif, till its removal and claimed that the people had given their verdict in favour of PDA and rejected the rulers.

She was addressing a sizeable crowd of PPP workers from her Khyber Mail compartment at Hyderabad Railway Station here on late Monday night. Speaking in Sindhi, she said that hundreds of PPP workers from Sindh were languishing in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi and were being maltreated, and added the IJI government had completely failed and the army had been called out in Sindh to control the situation.

Sharif Sees Media 'Conspiracy'

BK2611145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said we are leading Pakistan toward a new era of economic development and are looking forward to the day when Pakistan will be known for its political stability and economic prosperity. He was inaugurating the second channel of Pakistan Television and the Educational Television Center in Islamabad this morning. [passage omitted]

The first phase of PTV-2 has been completed at a cost of 627 million rupees, including a Japanese grant-in-aid of 507 million rupees. It would cover over 56 percent population and 24 percent area of the country. With the establishment of PTV-2, the area of Gilgit, Skardu, Gwadar, and Khuzdar will also receive the transmission. With the completion of the second phase, 95 percent population and 52 percent of total area will be covered. The regular transmission of PTV-2 will be around seven hours a day.

Talking to newsmen after the inaugural ceremony, the prime minister said the opposition demonstration is the story of the past now and the nation must move forward

toward the 21st century. He said the inauguration of the second channel signifies our resolve to march forward toward the coming century. The project will entail immense benefit both within the country and abroad. These are the real things which need to be addressed. He said the enemies of the country would certainly feel happy if there is instability in Pakistan. The prime minister regretted that an endeavor was made under a conspiracy to tarnish the image of the country in the world media. There can be no worst example of enmity toward the country. He said foreign press deserves credit for its write up supporting our viewpoint and condemning the opposition movement. In reply to a question, the prime minister said the number of those taken into custody during the demonstration was not in thousands, but, whatsoever their number, they are going to be released shortly.

Islamabad Lifts Ban on Bhutto

BK2611143692 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1400 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The district magistrates of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have withdrawn with immediate effect the externment order issued on the 18th of this month in respect of Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Northwest Lifts Ban on Bhutto

BK2711022292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, the Northwest Frontier Province government has withdrawn the ban on the entry of People's Democratic Alliance leaders, Ms. Nusrat Bhutto and Ms. Benazir Bhutto, into the province.

Bhutto Not To Enter Islamabad

BK2711100192 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
27 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Nov 26—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson and PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] leader, Benazir Bhutto has suddenly changed her mind and announced that she would not go to Islamabad until all political prisoners arrested during the long march were released.

Earlier, she had announced to end her 12-in long march on Thursday evening in Rawalpindi where she was also scheduled to participate in a next day's meeting of the PDA and opposition leaders. She announced her decision of not going to Islamabad at a seminar held to observe the silver jubilee of the PPP in Lahore.

Addressing the seminar, she vowed that the PPP would continue its struggle for the creation of an egalitarian society in which popular will is respected. She said political stability in the country could not be created unless a unanimous constitution is prepared. Benazir Bhutto said "the major problem with this country is that

people's mandate is not respected by certain forces, and power is transferred through a manipulated mandate to those who do not have the right to represent people."

Regarding the issue of nationalisation, she said she was misquoted when some section of the press reported that she would nationalise those industries and banks which had been privatised by the Nawaz Sharif government.

Al-Qadhafi's Message Criticized

BK2511162392 Hong Kong AFP in English
1433 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 25 (AFP)—A Pakistani minister Wednesday criticised Libyan leader Mu'ammarr Al-Qadhafi for sending the government here a letter which reportedly alleged mistreatment of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Information Minister Abdus Sattar Laleka said it was an "open secret" that Libya had provided training to "terrorist" elements from Pakistan in the past.

"What democratic process is being followed in Al-Qadhafi's own country?" he told reporters.

Laleka pointed out that Islamabad had never interfered in the internal affairs of the Arab country.

Bhutto's younger brother, Murtaza Ali Bhutto, has frequently been accused by the government of being the mastermind behind the Al-Zulfikar Organization, which has been blamed for acts of sabotage in Pakistan. Islamabad recently asked for his extradition from Syria, where he has been residing, but Damascus is believed to have ignored the demand. Laleka said Libya had offered to provide sanctuary to Murtaza when the Pakistan Government put "pressure" for his extradition from Syria.

Earlier, a Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that Al-Qadhafi had sent a message to the Pakistan Government. He refused to reveal its contents but said it was being studied.

Pakistani newspapers, however, said the message expressed concern over allegations of mistreatment of Bhutto and large-scale arrests of her supporters.

Bhutto was banned from entering Islamabad and some other parts of the country after police prevented her from leading an anti-government mass march on the capital on November 18. She was briefly detained before being expelled from the capital.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations, had also addressed a letter to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Newspapers here said Pell had urged Sharif to open the country to free expression of views by the opposition and to release political prisoners.

Minister Rules Out Possibility War With India

BK2711095792 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 27 Nov 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Multan, Nov. 26—Federal Minister for Defence Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that government would review law and order situation in Sindh in January, 1993 and then it would be decided whether army should be called back or it should continue its operation against the miscreants, law breakers, kidnappers, dacoits [robbers] and terrorists in the province.

Talking to newsmen in the VIP lounge this afternoon, the Minister said that army would not stay unnecessary in Sindh even for a single day.

The defence minister ruled out the possibility of Indo-Pak war in near future because both the countries had reached an understanding that war was harmful to developing countries. He said that defence secretaries level talks were held in Delhi recently, and similar dialogues on different issues were being held between two countries and such interim arrangements for peace were paving the way for good relations.

He said that operation clean up was conducted at an appropriate time and in a good manner. Now situation in cities and rural areas was far better than ever before. He claimed that army had taken the people out of uncertainty, confusion, and frustration by apprehending the culprits involved in subversive activities.

Syed Ghaus Ali Shah was of the view that government should take initiative to hold dialogues with the Opposition because the solution of present crises was only possible through reconciliation and dialogue.

He said that the Opposition should have to raise its conditions on table of dialogue instead of putting preconditions. To a question Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that it was a democratic right of the Opposition to point out the weaknesses, wrong-doings of the rulers, and criticise its policies, but it should wait for appropriate time to come into power and it should not make unconstitutional demands.

On the other hand, Government should be ready to face unforeseen circumstances and it should endeavour to strengthen its bases in the masses by taking far-reaching steps.

The Minister said that present government had a massive mandate and it came into power as a result of it. Opposition had initiated to show the street power by launching its long march, now ruling party had a right to counter its impression of popular support. He said that every issue should be resolved in the parliament and we should not clean dirty linen in the public. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that PML [Pakistan Muslim League] workers should not come out on the streets for confrontation with the Opposition and they should avoid any step which leads to confrontation, hatred, or widening gulf between two forces.

Issue of Pakistani Bodies in India Raised at UN**Spokesman Asks India for Bodies**

BK2511113892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Pakistan is to raise at the current session of the UN General Assembly the issue of coldblooded murder of two Pakistanis by Indian intelligence agencies and its refusal to return the dead bodies to Pakistan. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman expressed Pakistan's disappointment over the Indian refusal to return the dead bodies of Intikhab Alam Zia and Habibullah for burial by their families in Pakistan. He said the murder of these two Pakistanis would have serious implications on India-Pakistan relations. He urged the Indian Government to hold immediately an independent inquiry into this unfortunate and deplorable incident and share its findings with Pakistan. The spokesman asked India to act soon and repatriate the dead bodies of the deceased.

Envoy Urges UN to Ask India for Bodies

BK2611114692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Pakistan has called on the United Nations to condemn gross and systematic human rights violations by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir so that India halts its campaign of terror. Speaking at the General Assembly's Special Committee, the Pakistani delegate, Senator Khalid Rahman, said the situation in the occupied territory constitutes a threat to international peace and security. He also urged the world community to urge India to return the bodies of two Pakistani nationals who were killed by Indian forces last month.

Need for Caution on U.S. Concerns Suggested

BK2711100592 Islamabad THE NATION
in English 26 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Concern"]

[Text] The United States has expressed its concern over the pitch the ongoing confrontation between the government and the Opposition has reached in the aftermath of the long march. The dangers to which the Americans are reported to have pointed are the lack of consensus in the body politic, the damage this can do to the fragile democratic order, and the threat of martial law if the parties do not start a dialogue to avert the collapse of the democratic system. Martial law or some other authoritarian situation would lead to the US Administration being constrained by law to apply sanctions against Pakistan. Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, has written to the Prime Minister to express concern over the alleged increasing violation of human rights in Pakistan over the last two years, culminating in the crackdown on the Opposition on November 18th. The letter has pointed out that the incoming Clinton Administration is on

record as having said that the promotion and protection of human rights will be one of the principle criteria on which it bases its bilateral relations.

Although the present political impasse is our internal affair, and no other country has any *locus standi* to comment on or influence the manner or direction in which our political problems are resolved, nevertheless it is an undeniable reality that we can ignore the views of the only remaining superpower at the risk of incurring its displeasure, which could translate into the US bringing its considerable influence to bear on all sources of financial assistance, whether Western or Eastern, bilateral or multilateral. Already, we are being subjected to the unjustified application of the Preuler Amendment. What lends the present expression of concern added urgency is that it has emanated from both the executive as well as the legislative branches of the American system. With the victory of the Democrats, the gridlock between the previous Republican Administration and a Democrat-controlled Congress has been broken. Therefore any country which does not match up to the criteria to which Senator Pell referred, is likely to find few friends in Washington and may find itself on the receiving end of punitive steps by the international community. To guard against such a worrying possibility, which could exacerbate Pakistan's current economic and social woes, it would be imperative for the government and the Opposition to rise above the partisan fray and resolve their problems through dialogue in a spirit of accommodation.

Minister: Railway Planned With Uzbekistan, Iran
BK2611025292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 0200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Pakistan intends to lay a railway line from Tor Khan to Uzbekistan and modalities are being worked out with the Central Asian Muslim Republics for this project. This was stated by Federal Railway Minister Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billoo while talking to newsmen in Sukkur. He said the feasibility report on the bullet train project is also being studied, and the prime minister desires that this train should start running by 1994.

The federation minister said that the proposal to lay a railwayline linking Karachi with (Taftan), Kerman and Bandar 'Abbas in Iran is also being studied. It will provide travel facility by train to Paris via Iran and Turkey.

Sri Lanka

Parties Discuss Peaceful Solution to Fighting

'Radical' Reforms Suggested

BK2611155092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT
26 Nov 92

[Text] Colombo, Nov 26 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party and the main opposition Thursday agreed on

radical constitutional reforms aimed at ending the ethnic bloodletting in the island, but minority groups reacted cautiously to the peace offer.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's party and the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) agreed on a proposal to adopt a federal constitution subject to Tamil parties dropping a key territorial demand, political sources here said.

The decision of former premier Sirima Bandaranaike's SLFP was announced at a closed-door parliamentary select committee meeting here, and a senior government minister said they too would go along with it, the sources said.

Mangala Munasinghe, the head of the committee appointed last year to hammer out a consensus solution to end the 20-year-old Tamil separatist war, told legislators that the SLFP had accepted the federal state formula of a Tamil MP.

The package proposed by legislator, S. Srinivasan, envisages the creation of a federal state while in return the Tamils agree to drop their demand for joining into one unit the northern and eastern provinces of the island.

The SLFP and the ruling party have been resisting Tamil demands to link the two provinces, which account for about one third of Sri Lanka's land area and are where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Moderate Tamil politicians described the Sinhala parties acceptance of Srinivasan's proposal as a "historic landmark" in the search for peace, but radical groups expressed scepticism about the political will to implement it.

Any amendment to Sri Lanka's unitary constitution requires a two-thirds majority in parliament as well as approval in a nationwide referendum.

Abbu Yusuf, a member of the opposition Tamil Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), said the creation of a federal state would only be acceptable if the northern and eastern provinces were merged.

"Federalism is meaningless without the merger of the north and the east," Yusuf, who is not a member of the select committee, said. The members of the committee have taken an oath of silence.

A politician associated with an alliance of seven Tamil parties said they were happy that the Sinhalese parties had come out openly for the first time to offer a federal solution, but he was not sure if it could be implemented.

The radical leftist Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society) Party (NSSP) rejected the development as an empty promise and said both the ruling party as well as the main opposition SLFP could not be trusted.

NSSP legislator Vasudeva Nanayakkara, who is boycotting the select committee, said he did not believe that

the country was any nearer to a solution to the ethnic crisis which claims a daily death toll in the country.

"We are still light years away from a solution. The select committee only gives credibility to the government that it is working for a solution," Nanayakkara said, adding that he would defend any package acceptable to Tamils.

Political observers here believe that moderates on both sides of Sri Lanka's ethnic divide could isolate the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), only through a political solution.

Thousands have died during the 20-year-old campaign led by the LTTE, which is fighting security forces in the northeast in a bid to establish an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam.

Opposition Leader Denies Deal Made

BK2711065492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT
27 Nov 92

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 27 (AFP)—Prospects of a settlement to Sri Lanka's dragging Tamil separatist war faded Friday as the main opposition leader denied agreeing to radical constitutional reforms aimed at ending the bloodshed.

The chairman of a parliamentary committee announced in a closed-door meeting Thursday that former premier Sirima Bandaranaike endorsed a proposal by a Tamil legislator calling for major concessions from both sides of the ethnic divide.

Mangala Munasinghe, the head of the committee appointed last year to hammer out a consensus solution, told legislators that Bandaranaike, in telephone conversations with him, had accepted the federal state formula of a Tamil MP [member of parliament].

The package proposed by legislator Kanapathipillai Srinivasan envisages the creation of a federal state with the Tamils in return agreeing to drop their demand for merging the island's northern and eastern provinces.

Within hours of the surprise announcement, Bandaranaike, in an informal chat with Indian journalists at an Indian High Commission (embassy) reception here, denied she supported a federal constitution.

"We can't accept a federal set-up. We are against the merger," Bandaranaike said. Sinhalese parties have rejected a federal constitution since independence from Britain in 1948.

Political sources said she may have been shocked that reporters had learnt of the developments within the select committee, whose members have taken an oath of silence.

"It is understandable that no Sinhalese party would like to take the leadership, especially in proposing something that is not very popular with their electorate," a political analyst here said.

Reports that another Sinhalese MP had sought clarification about Bandaranaike accepting the Srinivasan formula prompted the ruling party to go along with it, a senior government minister said.

Other Tamil legislators had dismissed the Srinivasan plan as a sell-out. However, political observers here said that the fact the main Sinhalese parties agreed to a federal solution was a landmark development.

"We are not interested in deals. What we are interested in is a viable solution that will bring lasting peace," L. Keethiwaran, spokesman for the Tamil Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), told AFP.

He said the Sinhalese leaders should publicly endorse the creation of a federal state and demanded that they actively campaign for it in a constitutionally required nationwide referendum.

Keethiwaran said the Tamil parties were insisting on the merging of the northern and eastern provinces into one administrative unit as part of any package to resolve the protracted ethnic conflict.

The radical leftist Nava Sama Samaja (new Equal Society) Party (NSSP), the only Sinhalese party that supports a merger of the north and east, rejected the select committee as a waste of time.

NSSP legislator Vasudeva Nanayakkara, who is boycotting the select committee said he did not believe the country was any nearer to a solution to the ethnic crisis that has claimed thousands of lives.

"We are still light years away from a solution. The select committee only gives credibility to the government that it is working towards a solution," Nanayakkara said.

Political observers here believe that moderates on both sides of Sri Lanka's ethnic divide could isolate the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), only through a political solution.

However, military officers were sceptical whether a political solution could be implemented on the ground as long as the Tiger guerrillas remain as a fighting force in the north and east.